

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," he says verbally, "while I worked in the state farm office as a clerk, the guards and farm employees had to wait for money to be placed in the bank so that their pay vouchers could be cashed."

On Lucas' entrance to the farm, around April 7, 1932, he was placed in the kitchen.

Sanitation Called Bad

"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 Gillespie (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

"I carried a club during the time he was in charge of the kitchen. He would curse continually. They all do that. They can't talk to you without saying —," he charges in his sworn statement.

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 black-jack in his hand. Craig, the superintendent, took it away from him," swears Lucas in his statement.

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, receive 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 storehouse, 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 storehouse," Lucas charges in his sworn statement.

Bribe 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

THEY'RE HEADED FOR HIGH PLACES



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 25,000 and 250,000, and 20 per cent wage increases in towns of less than 25,000, 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." Police hurried to the North Noble street address and awakened Mrs. Foreman. She was unperturbed.

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.

They had quarreled, she said, because he wanted her to move to Ft. Wayne to live with relatives.

BATTLE STILL RIDDLE, EVEN TO THE JUDGE

"He called my girl a brat," charged Elzie Gray in municipal court three Friday before Judge pro tem Percy Myers.

"He left the gate open and my cow could have been killed," countered Gurney Lanham, accused by Gray of shooting with intent to kill.

The men live in the same house at Eighty-sixth street and the Allisonville road. Lanham is a farm hand.

Trouble apparently has been brewing between the pair for some time, their testimony indicated.

Recently, they passed the "words" stage. A shot was fired. Gray had Lanham haled to court. Each told the judge their versions of the affair.

Myers withheld judgment until Aug. 10. He warned the men to remain on "good terms" until that time and after.

Women of ancient Egypt had their hair dressed about every ten days, very much as modern women are accustomed to do.

The Universe

How far away is the sun from the earth; how long does it take the sun's light to reach the earth; is the sun stationary or in motion; what is the moon made of; why does it change its apparent shape; why does it cause an eclipse of the sun every so often; what are the stars made of; how far away are they; how many are there; what causes their different colors; what is a "light-year," what is the largest constellation in the sky; how do we measure distances to the stars?

How many planets are there in the solar system; what are planetoids; what is the name of the latest planet discovered; is there life on the planets; how old is the earth; how can it be proved that it is a sphere; is the earth nearer the sun in summer or winter; what causes the seasons on the earth; how fast does the earth travel in its orbit around the sun; what is at the center of the earth?

How much of the surface of the earth is land and how much water; what causes tides on the earth; what is the temperature in the deepest oceans; how deep are the deepest?

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CODE PROPOSES ROOSEVELT AS OIL DICTATOR

Hearing on Rules Urged by Petroleum Institute Begins Monday.

BY MARSHALL McNEIL
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, July 22.—President Roosevelt would take on the role of oil czar, controlling production and licensing marketing under the American Petroleum Institute's code of fair competition which is to be headed by the national recovery administration starting Monday.

In this hearing the pressure of the great international figures of oil will be felt; there, too, the governments of the oil-producing states will be represented; and the small independent wildcaters whose enterprise in seeking for this black liquid wealth will raise their voices.

Issues Are Clear

The issues are clear and the code hearing controversies will revolve about four major points:

1. Whether the federal government shall be given authority to control production.
2. Whether marketers of petroleum shall be licensed.
3. Whether the federal government shall fix prices.

Labor provisions. These latter are paramount to the Roosevelt administration and the recovery administration, but generally they are of secondary importance to the industry's leaders, who are concerned more deeply in price-fixing, licensing, federal production control.

Propose 40-Hour Week

The institute's code proposes a forty-hour week, with minimum wages ranging from 40 to 47 cents, depending upon the region. An independent code that will be proposed at the hearing provides minimum wages of 50 cents and a 30-hour week.

The production provisions of the code leave no doubt that the great of the oil industry want President Roosevelt as their dictator. For they provide that before a well can be drilled the drillers must obtain a permit from the government at Washington; and, having found oil, the pool in which it is located may not be developed until a plan for its utilization is worked out.

Thus if Farmer Smith in Chambers county down in Texas wants to drill a well in an abandoned pasture on his own land, he must first come to Washington, or through the mails seek federal permission.

Ask Minimum Prices

Here, according to some, is a serious conflict with Texas law, constitutional guarantees of property rights, the well-recognized petroleum law of capture which permits a man to take from under his own land all the oil he can. There may be, also, conflicts with production and conservation statutes in Texas and other states.

If and after Farmer Smith produces his oil, its price would be set at Washington, for the code says "the President is requested to establish, from time to time, minimum prices for crude petroleum in the various petroleum producing areas . . . and . . . to protect consumers, may also fix maximum prices . . ."

Banner Event

Ethiopian Flag Made in Nick of Time for Prince's Arrival.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, July 22.—Behind the pomp and circumstance of welcoming a royal Ethiopian prince to Washington are problems as tough on the prince as they are on bandmasters, hotel keepers and diplomats. Ask Prince Ras Desta Deltu. He knows.

His troubles began before he arrived. The state department wanted his arrival at the Mayflower hotel to be as magnificent as possible. The department wired the prince, please, would he get all dressed up? The prince obliged.

He wore a banmaster's shako a foot and a half high. It was made of the hide and mane of an Ethiopian lion. He had on a cream-colored coat, fringed with gold braid. It fitted tightly about the princely waist and flared at the princely knees.

The hotel recognized the prince, all right. The royal Ethiopian flag given was waving in the Connecticut breeze. A beautiful flag it was, too, with a green stripe, a red stripe and a yellow stripe, from top to bottom. The hotel had a hard time getting that flag.

There was no Ethiopian flag in the hotel's flag files. The state department had no Ethiopian flag. Neither did any of the embassies. The assistant to the assistant manager finally unearthed a picture of the flag in the back of the dictionary. He sent the picture to a flag factory in Philadelphia. The factory made a flag in the nick of time.

DROUGHT CAUSED BY PLANETS, IS ASSERTION

Forecaster Says Clash of Bodies to Bring Dry Spell.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, July 22.—This old world may look for another drought this summer—and it's all on account of a planetary quarrel between our neighbors, Mars and Jupiter.

The celebrated altercation occurred last March, according to an astrologer and amateur weather forecaster, who predicted the 1930 drought.

As a result, Mars will "raise miserable hot weather," Schimmack said. "I have only four heavy rains before Aug. 21—July 13, 14 and 19 and Aug. 19."

Mars and Jupiter came together with Neptune in the sign of Virgo last March 7, parted and again met in June, Schimmack said. It was a bad combination, as a weather sign, he believes.

'TWO'S COMPANY—THREE'S CROWD'



Mrs. Curtis Dall, sister of Elliott Roosevelt, may have arrived in Chicago at the same time as her brother and his "friend" Ruth Googins just for a "fun visit," as she explained, but part of the "fun" consisted of chaperoning the two young persons, who deny an impending wedding. The photo shows Roosevelt driving his sister, center, and Miss Googins to their hotels after a swim and dinner at a Chicago club.

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STRIKERS NOT TO BE REFUSED RELIEF MONEY

Important New Policy Is Announced by U. S. Administrator.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance

WASHINGTON, July 22.—Workers, striking in defense of their new right to collective bargaining, will not be denied relief funds by the United States government if their own war chests run low in the future.

Harry L. Hopkins, federal emergency relief administrator, announced this important new policy today.

In the past, private relief funds as well as public funds in many cases have been withheld from strikers and their families.

"Each case applying for relief to the local emergency relief agencies should be treated on its merits as a relief case wholly apart from any controversy in which the wage earner may be involved," Hopkins said today.

"The federal emergency relief administration will not attempt to judge the merits of labor disputes. State and federal agencies as well as courts exist which are duly qualified to act as arbiters and adjusters in such disputes."

MEXICAN ROAD CLOSED

Rain Blocks Work of 30,000 Men to Open Highway.

By United Press

MEXICO CITY, July 22.—The Pan-American highway from Monterey to Mexico City will be impassable to motor traffic until the rainy season ends next November or December, according to observers who have inspected the road recently. It had been hoped to put it in satisfactory shape for American automobile tourists' use this summer.

Under the handicap which the rain imposes, construction work is proceeding steadily. Approximately 30,000 men are employed.



THE PRESIDENT has proclaimed a "blanket code" dealing with wages and hours of employment to be effective Sept. 1, 1933. This code is intended to bring about more employment at better wages pending the adoption of specific codes by the nation's varying businesses and industries.

We intend to support the President and the National Recovery Administration to the best of our ability. We shall sign the President's Agreement when offered and when the Code for Retail Business is completed and accepted, we shall comply with the provisions of that Code in the spirit of the President's Proclamation of July 20.

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Today's Almanac
July 22nd
1620-8,943,682 Pilgrims start for America from Holland.
1796-Moses Cleaveland founds city of Cleveland, Ohio.
Approximate statistics gathered from the number of people whose ancestors came over with the Pilgrim fathers.