

The Battalion

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Federal prison escapees captured, two still at large

Associated Press

SALEM, Ill. — Two federal prison escapees who had eluded searchers for three days were captured Monday night after one of them sought a drink of water at a house on the edge of this farm town, authorities said. Two other escapees were still at large.

A fifth convict was captured Sunday. Maurice J. Philon, 40, was captured by two deputy sheriffs about 8:30 p.m. Monday as he walked along the railroad tracks a half-mile outside Salem.

Fifty minutes later, a second convict, Edward Roche, 39, was captured, authorities said. Details of his capture were not immediately available.

Sheriff's deputy Dennis Green said Philon, a convicted bank robber, offered no resistance. Green said the deputies found Philon after learning that a man had knocked on the door of a home and asked for a drink of water.

"He was thirsty. He said they hadn't had water for three days," Green said. Aside from a few cockle burrs on his clothes, Philon looked all right, Green said.

Early Monday, two men believed to be among the fugitives were spotted on the front porch of an isolated farmhouse, but they fled when a watchdog started barking.

The five convicts, all serving long prison sentences, used an electronic gadget to open the locks on the prison gates Friday night when they escaped from the maximum security federal prison at Marion, Ill., 75 miles south of Salem in Southern Illinois.

During the day Monday, two spotter planes and a helicopter circled overhead as police and FBI agents carrying M16 rifles and automatic shotguns ringed a six-mile

circle of woodlands and farm country. More than 150 lawmen joined the search. Roadblocks were set up on all six roads leading from the area. Three specially trained tracking dogs joined the search.

One escapee, a convicted murderer, was captured Sunday when the fugitives' stolen car careened into a ditch near Salem during a police chase. The other four took off on foot.

The Salem policeman who was pursuing the car when it crashed said he wounded one of the fleeing men with a shotgun blast. But the FBI said a trail of blood leading from the scene turned out to be animal blood.

The search area is sparsely settled countryside with no towns. Soybeans and field corn grow in the fields.

Police said they did not know how many persons live in the area. State trooper R. J. Miller said he was not aware of many families leaving the area. But, he added, many persons had armed themselves.

"I couldn't blame them," Miller said.

Before dawn Monday, two men, believed to be half of the fugitive band, walked onto the front porch of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Storment's two story farmhouse, authorities said.

Peggy Storment, 37, caught a glimpse of them through a window.

Storment, also 37, was sitting in the kitchen with two shotguns. He alerted au-

thorities with his citizens' band radio.

"They were here in less than a minute," he said.

Two sets of footprints were found, leading in different directions, but searchers were unable to follow them in the darkness.

The convicts used an electronic beeper, made by one of the escapees in a prison workshop, to open the electric locks on the prison gates Friday night.



Taking off

Staff photo by Steve Gable

University police haul off five bicycles confiscated Monday morning after officers cut their locks and

chains to clear a ramp designed for the handicapped who must enter the east wing of the Chemistry Building.

China visit to exclude Chou

Associated Press

TOKYO — Chou En-lai, architect of Chinese-American rapprochement, lies ill, perhaps critically, in a Peking hospital and probably will not receive his old partner in detente, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, during his Oct. 19-23 China visit.

Stricken with heart disease in the spring of 1974, the charismatic and once tireless Chinese premier has been barred for nearly a month from seeing foreign visitors.

Yugoslav Premier Dzemal Bijedic left China on Sunday after a week-long visit without meeting the 77-year-old Chou.

Whether Kissinger sees the ail-

ing premier or not, he will be dealing with a familiar team of negotiators — First Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping and Foreign Minister Chiao Kuanhua — both executors of Chou's moderate policies.

In the nearly 11 months since Kissinger's last China visit, Chou has put the Chinese administrative house in order, thus insuring a smooth transition in the event of his death or further incapacity. Should Teng, as now expected, become premier, he would have a full quota of 11 vice-premiers and 29 ministers in all posts to help him.

Chou's success in filling gaps in the government administration which had existed since the 1966-

69 cultural revolution may prove to be one of his most significant and lasting contributions to Chinese stability.

Kissinger is expected to stop over briefly in Tokyo going to and from Peking, chiefly to brief Prime Minister Takeo Miki on the Chinese talks. He has already said Korean security will be one of the subjects — one of great interest to Japan — discussed in the Chinese capital.

Kissinger will be making preparations for President Ford's China trip, expected late in November. The Chinese would like to see that visit crowned with full diplomatic recognition but are said to be aware

of, if not happy about, the fact it will not take place.

They recognize that Ford's hands are tied by his quest for another term in the White House. Though recognition might be popular in the United States, the President would risk losing the support of pro-Taiwan conservatives in Congress.

TOP OF THE NEWS

Campus

Women will have a limited role in Bonfire activities this year.

They will be allowed to sell candy, cokes, chewing tobacco and coffee, Marianne Hughes, women's coordinator for the Bonfire, said Monday night.

They will be allowed to go to the cutting area only in groups and must call ahead on the Citizen Band radios used for communication. "It's too dangerous for the women," said Hughes.

Women can go to the stack but remain outside the perimeter fires, Hughes added.

The Corps trip to Fort Worth this weekend includes a midnight yell practice and dance at Texas Women's University and a march and yell practice in downtown Fort Worth.

The activities kick-off Friday night with the annual TWU-sponsored dance at Old Sub Ballroom on the TWU campus at 8. A midnight yell practice will be held on the Hubbard Hall lawn at 11:30 p.m.

The Corps will assemble at 9:30 a.m. on Grove and Pecan Streets and move-out at 10. The parade will travel west on Weatherford, south on Houston, east on 9th Street, north on Main and east on First Street. The reviewing stand will be at the Tarrant County Convention Center with Brigadier General John E. Taylor Jr., USAF, reviewing.

A two-day conference on using city waste as an energy source will be held Oct. 16-17.

Texas A&M engineers and scientists plan to bring together city officials and representatives of industry and government to show them that converting garbage to steam and electrical energy is possible.

economical and a benefit to the environment.

City

Claims for unemployment insurance in Bryan dropped from 741 in August to 537 in September, the Texas Employment Commission (TEC) in Bryan reports.

During September the TEC provided 423 workers with jobs, 17 jobs less than last month.

Currently there are 1,242 people looking for jobs through the Bryan TEC.

The preliminary statistics for August in Bryan show 1,144 people unemployed out of a labor force of 30,492.

The present local unemployment rate for Bryan-College Station is 3.8 per cent.

The A&M Consolidated elementary schools began nutrition programs Monday for National Lunch Week, Oct. 12-18.

Both College Hills and South Knoll Elementary Schools are participating in this year's program entitled "Nutrition — You Are What You Eat."

Mrs. Ann Barton, Consolidated's food services director, said the program stresses lunches with at least one-third or more of the recommended daily allowances of needed nutrients.

She said this type of lunch is served at Consolidated schools each day.

The American School Food Service Association said an example of this kind of meal is a cheeseburger, potatoes, coleslaw, peaches and milk.

Texas

Tarleton State University has been recognized as a bicentennial university and representatives will be presented a bicen-

ennial flag and plaque at the homecoming luncheon Saturday.

Dr. Sue McGinty, bicentennial committee chairperson, is coordinating activities for university organizations planning to participate in bicentennial homecoming activities.

A University Arts and Crafts Fair, in cooperation with the city of Stephenville, is being planned for April 9-11.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen, D-Tex., presidential hopeful, said he is having trouble raising as much money as he would like for the campaign, Monday.

He said he would probably enter presidential primaries in Ohio, California, Pennsylvania, Upstate New York and downstate Illinois as well as Texas next year.

National

Congress should examine spending reductions proposed by President Ford over the past year for an indication of the budget cuts he will seek in the future, an aide said Monday in Washington, D. C.

The fire at Atlantic Richfield's Arco refinery in Philadelphia was declared under control Monday afternoon, but flames were still in evidence as more than 20 firemen continued to pour water and foam onto nearby storage tanks.

The only reported injury was suffered by Mayor Frank Rizzo had his thigh broken when he was knocked to the ground. He had been on the scene to observe the firefighters.

The cause of the blaze is unknown and no estimate of damages has been made.

Officials debate consolidation

By J. BRIAN FOOTE

Battalion Staff Writer

Mayor Lloyd Joyce of Bryan said there are strong economic reasons for College Station and Bryan to consolidate.

Joyce debated Monday with mixed emotions as he presented arguments favoring consolidation. College Station City Councilman Gary Halter, on the other hand, said cooperation between the cities with possible co-ownership of city services was more workable, but consolidation would be to College Station's disadvantage.

Joyce was for unification of effort through consolidation because, "What is good for one city is good for the other." He added it would provide economy of government and better services with one police department, one fire department and other unified services.

College Station would no longer have to purchase its power from Bryan's electrical utility plants if the cities consolidated, said Joyce. Competition for sales-tax dollars could be dangerous if it created attitudes against shopping in the other city, he added.

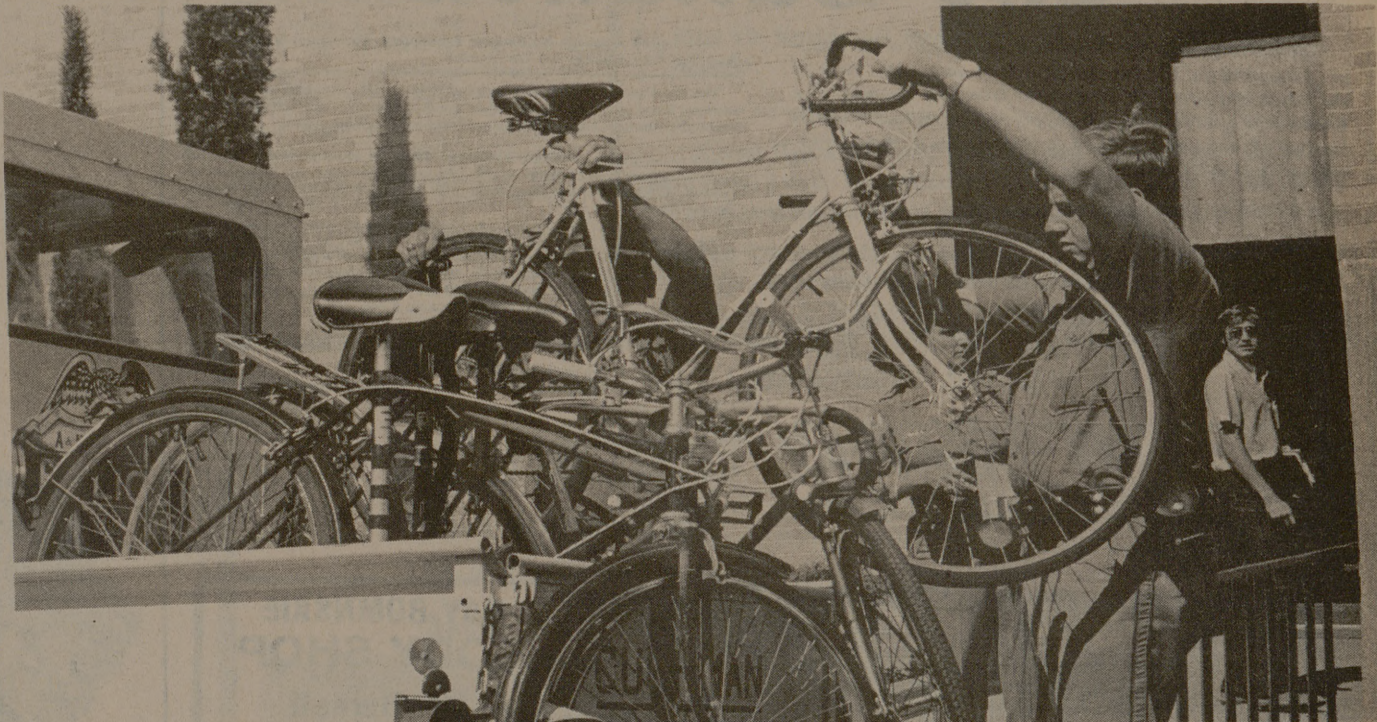
The two cities were already in business together with the electrical utilities, telephone, natural gas, water, civil defense and other services, Joyce said. He considered the cities "one people."

The major also mentioned the cooperation in the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce and an Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee.

Joyce said that the decision was up to the people. They should contact their mayors and the city councils. And if it was merited, he felt that the cities should appropriate funds to study the possibilities.

Halter tried to present what would prevent consolidation. He stated that a study showed only eight successes in ninety attempts at county-city or city-city consolidation. "There is a trend toward decentralization and local control in the county now," said Halter.

A required petition of 15 per cent of the qualified voters and required majority vote of each city for consolidation was stressed. He said that zoning laws and school zones would be issues, but that existing animosities were not valid issues. Consolidation would not necessarily be more economical for the cities, Halter said.



Loading up

Staff photo by Steve Gable

Loading confiscated bicycles into the back of a campus police scooter are Officers Charles Owen (left), Josie Hoelscher and Russel Rector. Five bicycles were

confiscated Monday as the officers cleared the handicapped ramp leading into the east wing of the Chemistry Building. The ramp is not marked.

Utility rates investigated

By JACK HODGES

Battalion Staff Writer

College Station has a utility-rate structure committee, which is presently looking into utility rates Bryan is charging College Station, temporary committee chairman James Dozier said Monday.

The committee was appointed in late August and held its first meeting two weeks ago. The committee includes seven residents chosen by the city council.

In the first meeting the members organized and outlined the rate structure, Dozier said.

"I don't feel that the committee will have much bearing on whether the rates go up or down, but it can get citizens' input on what the rates should be," he said.

College Station has an interim contract, effect until Dec. 31, with the city of Bryan, to buy needed water and electricity.

Both cities must renegotiate a new contract before Jan. 1. Before July 1, when Bryan increased the utility rates, for both cities College Station residents paid less for its utilities than the residents in Bryan, College Station City Manager North Bardell said Monday.

The reason for the different rates is that Bryan uses more of its utility income in its city budget.

"College Station hasn't as big a budget and expenses and we didn't need to charge as much," Bardell said.

Bryan implemented its rate increase a month earlier and College Station absorbed the cost difference for the residents, he said.

Bryan increased the rates, following a compromise with College Station, which brought the two cities' rates to about the same.

College Station's present electrical costs for residential areas is

\$2.50 charge per month. The breakdown is 5.6 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 25 kwh, 4.4 cents per kwh for the next 75 kwh, 3.54 cents per kwh for the next 100 kwhs, 1.9 cents per kwh for over 200 kwhs and 1.3 cents per kwh for over 700 kwhs used from November through April. These figures come from the new ordinance passed by the College Station City Council Aug. 1.

According to the previous ordinance, the cost of electricity for residents was 5 cents per kwh for the first 25 kwhs, four cents per kwh for the next 75 kwh, 3 cents per kwh for the next 100 kwh, 1.7 cents per hour for more than 200 kwh except 1.15 cents per kwh for over 700 kwhs used in the months of November through April.

The next meeting of the committee will be today at the College Station City Hall at 5 p.m.