

11 still at large after prison break

United Press International
MOUNDSVILLE, W. Va. — Fifteen inmates, including six convicted murderers, staged a mass prison break from the century-old West Virginia Penitentiary Wednesday night, but four were recaptured within hours.

An off-duty state trooper, driving by the medium-security prison with his wife while the escape was in progress, was shot and killed.

The 11 prisoners still at large Thursday were considered "armed and dangerous" and included ring-leader Stephen Hart.

Police in Ohio and Pennsylvania were enlisted in one of the largest manhunts ever organized in a West Virginia prison break. Roadblocks were set up along all major roadways leading out of the northern panhandle town.

State Trooper Philip Kesner, 23, and his wife, Connie, happened to drive by the fortress-like prison when the inmates, frantically looking for a getaway car, shoved Sgt. Jerry Daff of the prison staff in front of the officer's car.

Kesner swerved to avoid an accident and went into a skid. He was jerked from the car. Shots were heard. Some inmates piled into his car and sped off, leaving Kesner on the pavement bleeding and his dazed but uninjured wife pleading for help.

Mrs. David Core, looking from her second-story window across the street, said she saw Kesner sprawled out in a pool of blood, his gun in his hand. His wife leaned over him, screaming for help.

"The girl was begging, 'Help him, help him,'" she said. "But there was nothing we could do."

State Police Superintendent Harley F. Mooney said Kesner fired six shots from his service revolver and

might have wounded one of his assailants.

Moundsville city police, responding to a burglary call at Wel-Met Inc., a welding firm a few blocks from the prison, captured Tom Lee Richardson, 29, serving time for armed robbery, and David Effingham, 19, serving a term for murder.

A short time later, state troopers picked up convicted murderer William W. Wayne, 18, and Wesley

Scott, 19, serving a sentence for breaking and entering.

None of the four put up any resistance.

The break came at 8:10 p.m., when Hart asked for permission to put his barber tools up for the night. Entering the command post, he jammed a pistol in the face of Sgt. Jerry Daff, while another prisoner stuck a knife to his throat and demanded the keys.



Kapavik honors Williams

Student Government President Ronnie Kapavik, right, presents former Texas A&M University System Chancellor Jack K. Williams

with a plaque in appreciation of Williams' long and dedicated service to the University.

Battalion photo by John Joyce

House passes bill to reform welfare

WASHINGTON — In an effort to reform the nation's welfare system, the House voted to set a guaranteed minimum annual income for needy families and to have the federal government pay a greater share of welfare costs.

The legislation, which passed, 222-184, Wednesday night, also tightens administration of welfare programs in an effort to reduce error and fraud.

The bill falls short of President Carter's wishes, but is considered the most sweeping legislation that could possibly get through Congress.

However, the legislation now goes to the Senate where Finance Committee Chairman Russell Long, D-La., will get first crack at it.

The House, by a 205-200 vote, narrowly defeated a Republican plan to allow states to set work requirements for welfare recipients and to set up a pilot program under which eight states would determine how federal welfare money is spent.

For the first time, the bill would set up a guaranteed annual income for needy families with children. That income would be 60 percent of the poverty level as of Jan. 1, 1981, increasing to 65 percent of the poverty level on Oct. 1, 1981. That would guarantee a \$4,654 annual income under current official poverty levels.

This would result in increased benefits for an estimated 800,000 recipients in 13 states, mainly in the South — Kentucky, New Mexico, Arizona, North Carolina, Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Texas, South Carolina and Mississippi.

At the same time, the federal share of welfare payments would increase. The amount a state pays toward Aid to Families with Dependent Children would decrease by 10 percent on Jan. 1, 1981, and by an additional 20 percent on Oct. 1, 1981.

The bill also would increase the maximum yearly payment under the earned income tax credit for the working poor to \$550, allow certain recipients of Supplemental Security Income to get cash in lieu of food stamps, and make numerous administrative changes.

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