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Escaped convicts elude lawmen

United Press International AURORA, Mo. — Two convicted murderers and a rapist who escaped from the Kansas State Penitentiary and exchanged gunfire with law enforcement officers at a roadblock fled on foot Wednesday after wrecking their car.

Lawrence County deputy Rick Redfield said one of the inmates was apparently injured in the gunfire, which erupted outside Aurora shortly before midnight Tuesday. No officers were injured.

The inmates, who were armed with a handgun, shotgun and possibly two other weapons, held an elderly Aurora area couple hostage for three hours before the shootout, police said.

They released the woman, Grace Furlow, unharmed on a county road after the shootout, headed east and wrecked their car. Furlow's husband, Eugene, was left tied up in the couple's house. Officers said neither was injured.

Some 60 police officers, sheriff's deputies and Highway Patrol troopers, aided by bloodhounds, concentrated their search early Wednesday in a rural residential area of southeast Lawrence County at the edge of Marionville, Redfield said. A helicopter and a plane equipped with floodlights were also used in the search.

Earlier Tuesday, lawmen captured escaped murderer James Murray after residents in Aurora, a town of 5,300 about 30 miles southwest of Springfield, phoned in to report a "suspicious character" walking through their neighborhood.

Murray, 24, was one of seven inmates who escaped from the Kansas State Penitentiary at Lansing Sunday by convincing a tower guard to let one of them, dressed in a stolen guard uniform, into the tower.

At large Wednesday were Everett Cameron, 32, serving time for rape, aggravated sodomy and kidnapping; Robert Bentley, 28, convicted of second-degree murder, rape and prison escape, and John Kitchell, 28, convicted of second-degree murder and assault.

Twenty-five roadblocks were set up in southeast Lawrence County Tuesday after Aurora police discovered a car stolen Monday from David Hancock, 23, who told police he gave four of the fugitives a ride after spotting them on a Springfield street.

"They told me they were having carburetor trouble and they were hungry," Hancock said. "The next I knew they had a gun to my head.

They said 'slide in the back seat and no funny stuff.'"

Hancock said the criminals got food, drove around and then went to Hancock's parents' home, where they tied him to his bed before leaving with his car and shotgun.

He said one "cocky" convict threatened to kill him, but his companions stopped him.

Six hours after the inmates left his house, Hancock worked himself free and called police to the criminals said they were headed for Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas City.

After finding the car, officers rushed to the northeast section Aurora and found two bedrolls and two 12-gauge shotguns near abandoned railroad boxes.

Nazi group to protect S. African rugby team

United Press International CHICAGO — One hundred members of a neo-Nazi group will "use violence if necessary" to protect a South African rugby team and its fans from anti-apartheid demonstrators at a scheduled Sept. 19 match, a spokesman for the group says.

Michael Allen, leader of the National Socialist Party of America, said Tuesday that party members wearing street clothes and armed "with what's legal" will

mingling with the crowd to prevent violence.

Allen said they will not interfere with marching, chanting or picketing, but will prevent demonstrators from physically trying to stop the game.

"We will make the game proceed without any disruption by the communists who are planning the anti-apartheid demonstrations," he said.

"We'll use force or violence if

necessary and we'll detain them until the police get there," Allen said. It's high time that someone stood up to these people.

The visit by the South African team has been criticized by anti-apartheid groups who say it violates the United Nations' solution calling for the isolation of South Africa's sports teams. Civil rights groups have announced they plan to demonstrate during the match also.

Government star witness to plead guilty in Dallas

United Press International BATON ROUGE, La. — The star witness in the federal government's investigation of two five-year-old murder cases will plead guilty to armed robbery charges in Texas, federal prosecutors say.

Steve Simoneaux, the government's chief witness in the reopened investigation of the 1976 murders of Shreveport advertising executive Jim Leslie and repu-

ted underworld figure Rusty Griffith, was scheduled to be escorted to Dallas Wednesday to plead guilty to armed robbery.

Simoneaux already has pleaded guilty to violating the civil rights of Griffith and has agreed to cooperate in the murder investigation. Five other men have been indicted since a federal grand jury began reviewing the case early this year.

U.S. Attorney Don Beckner said Simoneaux's plea bargaining agreement with officials in Dallas called for him to receive a 20-year sentence to be served concurrent-

ly with the 20-year federal sentence he was promised for cooperating in the Griffith-Leslie case.

Beckner said Simoneaux also planned to cooperate with Texas authorities who were investigating several robbery and murder cases.

Leslie was shot to death in Baton Rouge hotel parking lot July 1976, and Griffith was gunned down three months later in Concordia Parish.

Authorities have linked the deaths to an international ring of heavy equipment thieves.

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Dr. John Hoyle

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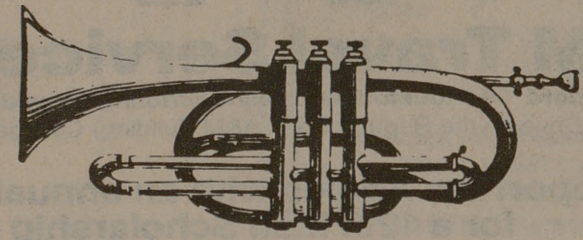
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