Life-sentenced man free after 16 years

United Press International BOSTON — George Reiss-felder says he just wants to fish and try to forget he spent 16 years of his life in prison and on the run for a murder he says he did not commit.

Reissfelder, 42, always insisted he was a victim of mistaken identity but it took the deathbed confession of his codefendant and testimony from a former prison chaplain and six law enforcement officers to spring him from a

life prison term. "I'm overjoyed," Reissfelder said Monday after he walked out of Suffolk County Courthouse a free man. "I'm the happiest guy in the

world.' He said his only regret was that his parents died before he was exonerated.

Reissfelder was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a railway express clerk during a \$20,000 holdup at Boston's South Station. He skipped out on a furlough in 1974 and was recaptured

three years later, but never gave up hope he would be re-

"I figured someday this would all come out," said Reissfelder.

He said all he really wanted to do was take a walk alone, have lunch with his family, then fish in New Hampshire for a week before going to work at his inlaw's clothing

factory in Boston.
"I barely know him, but I'm
going to get to know him
now," his daughter Maria, 21,

Suffolk Superior Court Judge Paul Connolly approved a defense motion to dismiss the conviction against Reissfelder after Assistant Suffolk County District Attorney John Kiernan said it was not feasible to re-try the case

16 years after the holdup.
Witnesses testified Reissfelder took part in the Oct. 14, 1966, robbery along with Wil-liam "Silky" Sullivan, but his attorneys claimed it was a case of mistaken identity. Both

were found guilty and sent-enced to life in prison. The Rev. Edward D. Co-

whig, a Roman Catholic priest and former prison chaplain, said Sullivan, while dying of leukemia in 1972, exonerated Reissfelder. He quoted Sullivan as saying, "I'm sorry Reissfelder was convicted of something he was not involved in.

But an embittered Reissfelder apparently refused to talk with Cowhig and the cleric left the prison without conveying the man's deathbed message.

Reissfelder did not pursue appeals for years and did not learn of Sullivan's statement until 1980. His current team. of court-appointed attorneys began seeking a new trial last year after obtaining corroborating evidence from the six law officers.

The Boston police detectives and an FBI agent said street informants told them at least two other men - not Reissfelder — were involved in the robbery.

U.S., German vets visit after 39 years

ched hotdogs, guzzled beer and laughed about the old days when they tried to kill each horrors of war.

hold a grudge.
As president of the 36th Infantry Division Association, a unit of U.S. Army World War II veterans, he thought it might be interesting to invite a few guests to the association's annual reunion. The guests had names like Helmit Meitzel, Gerhard Muhm and Heinz Langrock.

"The bad guys," Keeton said.

A year of letter-writing through the German Consulate in New Orleans, got Keeton his guests on Sunday. Six veterans of the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division, the Nazi infantry unit that battled the 36th in Italy, arrived at Keeton's home for a three-day visit before the Hous-

ton reunion.
"It's a good opportunity to compare notes," said Keeton. Lounging in the sun at Jackson Barracks in St. Bernard Parish, the six men from West Ger-

United Press International GRETNA, La. — Edward old college football rivals. Med-Keeton and six friends munplayed and stories traded in a friendly manner that belied the

Keeton, 60, was hardly one to bld a grudge.

As president of the 36th Innitry Division Association, a control of the 36th Innitry Division Association and the 36th Innitry Division Associa

pain. But we remember. On Sept. 9, 1943, the 36th led the invasion on the Salerno beaches, marking the first landing of American forces in

"We had never been to com-bat," Keeton said of his division, which was originally the Texas National Guard. "We were green as grass. And these fellows who were waiting for us were as

experienced as hell."
The 36th took the beach after several days of fighting, suffer-ing the third highest Allied casualty rate.

"The Texans were tough," Meitzel said with a nod toward Keeton. "They were able to stand a very bad time after







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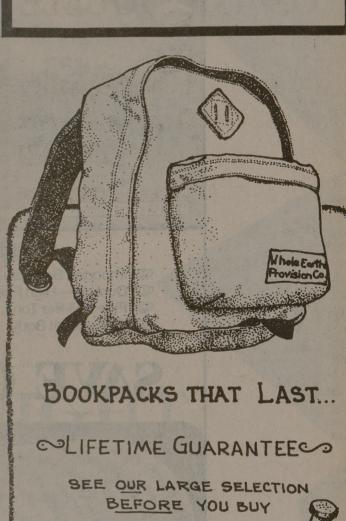
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