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Escapée still at large after missing jail bus

United Press International

SANTA FE, N.M. — A man who once faced execution in the gas chamber for murdering four Silver City residents remained at large Monday...

Riley Ivan Gillihan, 53, did not show up Saturday night to meet the prison bus at a drop-off point in Albuquerque. He had been working for an Albuquerque construction firm on a project at Tijeras, east of the city.

Corrections Department spokesman David Roybal said nearby states were alerted to the disappearance of the 6-foot-tall, 140-pound inmate.

"Our man is still out," Roybal said.

Although some people were questioning the Corrections Department's work release program Monday in view of Gillihan's escape, Roybal said the inmate had only three months until he would have been considered for parole and had compiled an excellent prison record.

He said reports detailing Gillihan's performance in the prison library at Los Lunas indicated the inmate was "an excellent worker."

Still other reports, said Roybal, showed Gillihan possessing "an exceptional capacity to learn and perform duties" and a "positive work attitude."

"The records I just cited to you he compiled while working on the farm prior to being placed on the work-release program in 1983," Roybal said.

Gillihan had been at the minimum-security facility since Sept. 9, 1981, after spending 13 years in the state prison near Santa Fe. He would have been eligible for parole on June 23, Roybal said.

In 1968, a Grant County jury convicted the Alabama native of killing his girlfriend, Maria Gonzales, 44; her sister, Andrea, 55; and a friend, Moises Rodriguez, 38.

Gillihan had pleaded insanity at the time of his trial, saying he had shot the victims after a drinking party and turkey shoot.

He was sentenced to die in the state's gas chamber on Dec. 27, 1968, but that sentence later was commuted to life in prison. If an inmate were executed in New Mexico today, it would be by injection.

Gillihan's conviction in New Mexico in 1968 was not his first brush with the law. In October 1960, he was sentenced to a federal correctional institute at Tallahassee, Fla., for auto theft. He later was transferred from there to the federal correctional institute at Seago, outside Dallas, so he could be near his release destination.

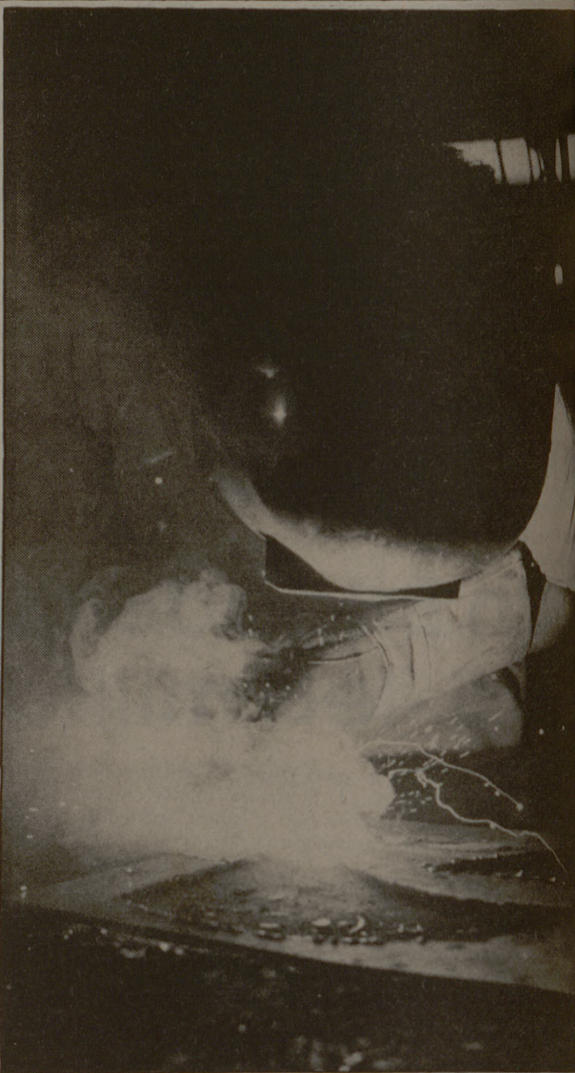
But he escaped just before his release from the Texas prison. Authorities caught him five days later, and he was sent to the U.S. penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., where he was released on Sept. 1, 1964. Authorities said he spent a few months in Alabama in 1965, then moved to New Mexico, where he worked as a short-term truck driver.

Musical tonight

MSC Townhall will bring the Broadway musical "Blues in the Night" to Rudder Auditorium tonight as part of this year's Broadway series.

The musical, on national tour, was nominated for a Tony award this year for best musical. It is the story of three women and a piano player who live in the same cheap hotel, reliving their memories and telling their stories through the songs they sing.

Della Reese plays the part of the older and wiser woman, and is co-starred by Cynthia White, Neva Small, and Clem Moorman. Tickets for the performance, which begins at 8 p.m., are still available at the MSC box office. Student ticket prices are \$11.25, \$10.25, and \$10.



What a Feeling

David Abbott, a junior engineering technology major from Houston works intently on a project for the engineering technology department's advanced welding class.

Not a crime

Parents chain hyperactive teen to protect him

EL PASO — The parents who keep their hyperactive 13-year-old boy in chains have committed no crime, a police official said Monday.

Acting on neighbors' complaints of cruelty, police and social workers of the Texas Department of Human Resources have been investigating the case for the past two weeks, said Lt. Ricardo Cuellar of the Youth Services Division.

The family apparently was following a physician's suggestion when they decided to chain the boy, Cuellar said.

"Of course, you're not going to get any doctor to admit he suggested something like that, but the boy hasn't suffered any cruelty we could discover," Cuellar said.

Cuellar said the DHR is continuing its investigation and hopes to find some other way of handling the child.

Patrolmen who answered the neighbors' complaints found the boy on the back porch with a four-foot chain attached to his wrists, Cuellar said. The mother was not home at the time but a brother was keeping an eye on the boy, he said.

Cuellar said the mother told police she was following the advice of a physician at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Fort Bliss, where the boy is an outpatient. She said chaining the boy was the only way to keep him from hurting himself. "You'd think this was a classical case of child abuse," Cuellar said. "But, in fact, other than the restraint, we couldn't find a single indication of any kind of mistreatment. He was well fed and clean. His parents and the rest of the family obviously care for him and are concerned about him because they are not to hand him over to any institution where he might be isolated, padded cell or something like that. He is only 13 years old." Cuellar said police officers said the boy is only being kept in chains during periods of hyperactivity or when his working program cannot be home.

Police said the child was rolled in a one-to-one tutoring program through the Paso school district.

Congressman investigated

WASHINGTON — Rep. George Hansen lobbied the Pentagon to evaluate an Australian "hydrogen car" hoax on behalf of a man who had just loaned him \$50,000, testimony revealed Monday at the Idaho Republican's trial.

A scientist testified in U.S. District Court the so-called hydrogen car driver would have been radiated to death the instant the vehicle was started. John Meade Jr., a former southern Virginia banker convicted of embezzlement, told a federal court jury he loaned Hansen \$50,000 on Nov. 21, 1981, while he was trying to interest the Army in exploring the hydrogen car invention.

Two days after he got the money, Hansen telephoned the Pentagon and suggested the Army was pressuring its scientists not to go to Australia to evaluate the hydrogen car, an Army official testified. Hansen, 53, is accused of omitting from his congressional financial disclosure statement \$50,000 loan from Texas millionaire Nelson Bunker Hunt. The Stallard when rooking — both in his wife's name — loans of \$85,000 from Meade and Rogers and \$50,000 from Meade.

Prosecutors are trying to prove Hansen knew about the invention and that he was involved in the transaction and benefited from them. McAfee testified the loan was helped him in 1979 when he tried to negotiate freedom for the American hostages in the Iran hostage crisis. McAfee said the loan was Barbara Timms, the mother of a hostage, was McAfee's hostess.

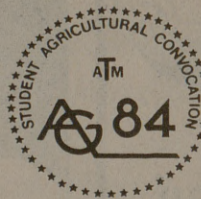
Similarly, Hansen arranged for Meade and Virginia businessman Carl McAfee to meet Army Secretary John Marsh July 23, 1981, and seek his approval for Army scientists to evaluate the hydrogen car.

The same day, Hansen deposited a \$25,000 loan from McAfee and his partner, Kentucky coal man Arthur Odell Rogers, into his bank account.

McAfee testified the loan was helped him in 1979 when he tried to negotiate freedom for the American hostages in the Iran hostage crisis. McAfee said the loan was Barbara Timms, the mother of a hostage, was McAfee's hostess.

Everyone welcome

All students in College of Agriculture are urged to participate in the 28th Annual College of Agriculture



Student Agricultural Convocation

7:30 p.m. Monday, April 2, 1984

Rudder Theatre Texas A&M University

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