

New Mexico could require \$25 million for new prison

United Press International

SANTA FE, N.M. — A Corrections Department spokesman says unless sentencing laws are changed, the state will need \$25 million to \$30 million next year for a new prison.

Corrections spokesman David Roybal said Monday determine sentencing, where an individual serves a set number of years for certain crimes, is considered the chief factor causing New Mexico's prison population to grow by 19 inmates month.

At that growth rate, the state will need a new prison by 1986 and will need space for another 1,000 inmates by 1990, he said.

Lawmakers failed during the last session in Santa Fe to pass new laws that would allow the Corrections Department to release prisoners near parole in

emergency overcrowding situations.

Legislators also killed a bill that would have allowed parole for inmates after one-third of their term had been served. The remainder of the prisoner's term would have been served under parole.

"The Legislature determines how fast the population rises. When they come back in January, they are either going to have to change the law or come up with the money for a new prison," Roybal said.

A U.S. Justice Department report shows New Mexico has 2,013 inmates, including 103 being held out of state, and experienced a 17.2 percent growth rate in 1983, significantly higher than the 5.9 percent national average.

Lawrence Greenfeld, a

spokesman in the department's Bureau of Statistics, said Monday that the West, as a whole, "showed much higher growth than any of the other regions."

Greenfeld said the advent of determinate sentencing legislation in the West may have led to the growth there in prison populations.

He said the Northeast showed a prison inmate increase last year of 9.1 percent, the northcentral part of the country had a 3.9 increase rate and the South's inmate population increased by 3 percent.

That compared with the West's overall increase of 12.6 percent, Greenfeld said.

The nation's penal institutions as a whole were 10 percent over capacity at the end of the year, according to the Bureau of Statistics report.

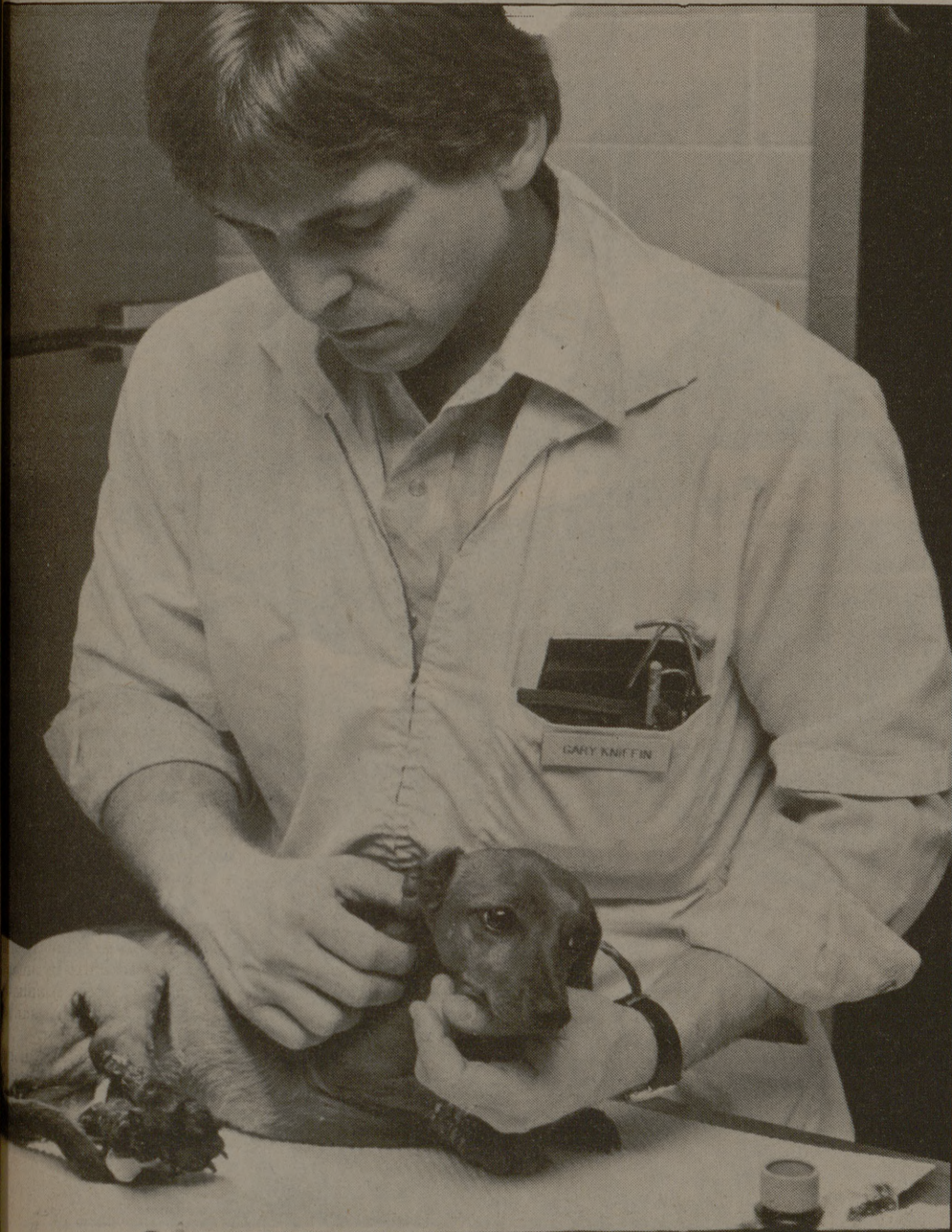
"The prisons have been operating at about 110 percent of capacity since roughly 1978," Greenfeld said.

Roybal said New Mexico prisons have a capacity for 1,754 inmates and now house 1,717.

Texas, which previously had led the nation in the number of inmates, had a prison population at the end of 1983 of 35,259. California had the most inmates in a state system — 39,360, Greenfeld said.

The prison population in Texas declined because of a "good time" law passed there.

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Pouty pup

Photo by JAMES DANEN

Gary Kniffin, a fourth year Veterinary Science student from College Station examines his patient Suizuie. The small brown dachshund was

brought into the animal clinic after being struck by a car. Suizuie's two back legs were injured but are healing correctly.

Escapee kidnaps, rapes young girl

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — A Michigan jail escapee fleeing from police told an apartment house resident that he was a security guard, then allegedly kidnaped and raped the woman's 10-year-old daughter, authorities said Monday.

Live Oak Police Chief Mark Jackley said the suspect, Howard Ort, 24, was charged with kidnaping, aggravated rape of child and indecency with a child following the ordeal Sunday.

Jackley said Ort, an escaped prisoner from Pontiac, Mich., was allegedly burglarizing a bar in suburban Live Oak early Sunday when he was confronted by the manager. He

said Ort escaped through a hole in the ceiling and ran to an apartment complex across the street.

Ort allegedly told a woman who lived in the apartment complex that he was a security guard and needed to borrow some women's clothing to investigate a rape, Jackley said.

He said the woman, who was partially deaf, went to a neighbor's apartment for help. When she returned, Ort and her 10-year-old daughter were gone.

Jackley said Ort allegedly took the girl to a construction site across the street and raped her three times.

Ort was arrested and the girl rescued several hours later.

Jury selection begins in hangar murder case

United Press International

SHERMAN — Jury selection begins Tuesday in the capital murder trial of a 36-year-old chemical salesman accused of killing four men — including a deputy sheriff and a former policeman — in a hangar in North Texas.

Lester Leroy Bower Jr. of Arlington has been held in the Grayson County jail in lieu of \$100,000 bond since he was arrested in January.

Bower is charged with four counts of capital murder in the Oct. 8, 1983, gunshot slayings of the four men, whose bodies were found in a barn that was used as an ultralight hangar.

The victims were Deputy Sheriff Phillip Good, 29, who had been with the department only eight days; former Sherman policeman Ronald Mayes, 47; Jerry Mack Brown, 51, a self-employed house remodeler from Sherman, and building contractor Bob Tate, 51.

Investigators said the victims

were all killed with a silencer-equipped .22-caliber weapon.

A search of Bower's home revealed three ultralight tires with the name "Tate" inscribed inside the hubs, court records showed.

Deputies also found manuals for making gun silencers and .22-caliber ammunition, but no weapon of that caliber.

State District Judge R.C. Vaughan has placed evidence connected with the case under a gag order preventing them from talking to the media.

Before the order was imposed, Bower was described by defense attorney Jerry Buckner of Weatherford as "a model citizen, a man who has probably led a cleaner life than either you or I."

The Tulsa, Okla., native is a leader at his Baptist church and had no past criminal record, Buckner said.

Deputies said they were led to Bower because he had answered an ad Tate placed to sell an ultralight aircraft. One of

the small planes, valued at about \$4,000, was missing from the hangar where the four men were found shot to death.

The bodies of three of the men were found underneath a small pile of carpet. Mayes' body was near the doorway of the small tin hangar, about 35 feet from the others.

Grayson County Sheriff Jack Driscoll said Mayes apparently tried to escape and was shot twice in the head. He said nine .22-caliber shell cases were found at the scene, indicating the weapon was an automatic.

The sheriff said the bodies had been moved inside the 45-foot by 45-foot hangar, located in a pasture about a quarter of a mile off the road in the community about 60 miles north of Dallas.

Driscoll said robbery was ruled out as a motive because one of the victims still had \$100 in his wallet and the others had from \$13 to \$40 on them.

Astronauts take second shot at struggling solar satellite

United Press International

CAPE CANAVERAL — Challenger's crewmen converted fuel Monday for a second shot at snagging Solar Max and were given a "fighting chance" of success if their gas gauge does not drop too far during rendezvous with the struggling satellite.

If the crew can haul the sun-baking observatory aboard with the shuttle's 50-foot mechanical arm Tuesday and if the propellant in the forward nose jets holds out, Challenger's flight might be extended until Friday.

That would allow two of the astronauts to try to repair the satellite during a cargo bay spacewalk Wednesday and put back in space Thursday.

"We stand a fighting chance of pulling it off," flight director Greene said Monday from mission control in Houston.

There are no guarantees. "The tricky part is to do a rendezvous without using any fuel," he said.

Challenger was prowling 60 miles from Solar Max Monday when Crippen fired the tail control rockets to start the shuttle on a "free ride" that will close

the gap to about 25 miles by the time the rendezvous maneuvers begin.

The drift was started with the tail rockets because the nose rockets had only 21 percent of their normal fuel supply left.

The nose rockets will not be needed for Challenger's return to Earth, but are crucial to the close-in part of the second approach to Solar Max.

The satellite was knocked more out of whack than ever by Nelson's failed attempt to stabilize it during his untethered spacewalk Sunday. But ground controllers managed to still the satellite's tumble and gave it a new lease on life by pointing its solar panels toward the sun to recharge its batteries.

"The opinion down here is that Solar Max is back," Jerry Ross told the astronauts from mission control in Houston.

"That is outstanding news," replied Crippen.

The satellite was so stable that the redemption retrieval attempt was delayed from Monday to Tuesday so Solar Max could be rotated very slowly to put it in the right position to be grabbed by the shuttle's mechanical arm.

Crippen will park Challenger underneath the satellite and Hart will use the snare on the end of the robot arm to latch onto a grapple fixture on the side of Solar Max.

He made four unsuccessful grabs for the satellite Sunday after Nelson was foiled by a faulty docking device. Solar Max is expected to be an easier target now that it is stabilized.

Once Hart makes his catch, the arm will lower the satellite into a frame at the end of the shuttle's cargo bay.

If the repairs proceed, Nelson and van Hoften will try to squeeze what was originally scheduled to have been two days of space mechanics into one.

Their key job is to replace Solar Max's attitude control box so scientists can again precisely point it toward the sun. They also are scheduled to swap out one instrument's electronics assembly and put a cover on another on the satellite that has been working at only partial capacity since November 1980.

If they cannot do the tuneup job, Solar Max will be stowed in the work frame to hitch a ride back to Florida.

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