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Search continues for fugitive killers

United Press International

WARRENTON, N.C. — Weary manhunters raced around the countryside near the Virginia-North Carolina border Monday checking out reported sightings of four fugitive killers from Virginia's death row, but came up empty-handed.

The latest reported sighting was in Roanoke Rapids, about 20 miles northwest of Warrenton. A woman told authorities a man in a prison guard's uniform tried to break into her house.

"We've sent a helicopter and a couple of agents over there to talk to people about that incident," said manhunt spokesman Russ Edmonston. "It's another lead that we're investigating."

The most intense search for the four death row fugitives, including the feared brothers Linwood and James Briley, was around Paschall, a rural community on the Virginia-North Carolina border.

"This is the last place they were seen," Edmonston said. "It's the most productive spot that we've got. We're working on the premise that there is a subject in there."

But Max Powell, another manhunt spokesman, said searchers in the Paschall area felt that "right now, it's kind of a cool trail."

Earlier Monday, 15-year-old Clara Wilson saw two men who looked like the infamous Briley brothers running near the Bracey, Va., campground her parents managed.

But searchers, aided by a helicopter and two airplanes, investigated Wilson's report and found nothing.

Later police were then dispatched to the scene of another possible sighting 10 miles west near Phyllis, Va., where Donald Payne, 13, said he saw a black man with a blue shirt leaning against a tree.

Authorities also investigated a reported sighting 150 miles south near Spencer, N.C.

Lem Tuggle, Willie Jones and the Brileys were among six inmates who fled from the supposedly escape-proof death row at Virginia's Mecklenburg Correctional Facility Thursday night. Two others were captured Friday afternoon in a Warrenton laundromat.

Sixteen prison employees were placed on administrative leave for the duration of an investigation into the daring escape — the largest death row breakout in U.S. history.

Edmonston insisted searchers were not discouraged.

"These things take time. I've talked to several people who have been through searches before and it can take days. We'll go until we can't go any farther."

Powell said "there is some indication" the inmates may have left the Warrenton area, where the search command center has been located since a van stolen in the breakout was found Friday morning.

Lem Tuggle, Willie Jones and the Brileys were among six inmates who fled from the supposedly escape-proof death row at Virginia's Mecklenburg Correctional Facility Thursday night. Two of the fugitives were captured Friday afternoon in a Warrenton laundromat.

Capt. Ed Haupt of the Rowan County Sheriff's Department said a search was launched near Spencer, in the center of North Carolina, after a sheriff's deputy reported a "suspected sighting" of Tuggle around 3:30 a.m. Monday.

Haupt said the deputy passed a man fitting the description of Tuggle standing beside the road. The man was gone when the officer returned.

Michener sails with Aggies

University News Service

The Texas Clipper, the 150-ton Merchant Marine training ship for Texas A&M University at Galveston, left Galveston Saturday for New Orleans with author James Michener on board.

Michener, who is living in Texas while researching a novel on the history of the state, also was the keynote speaker at the Galveston school's annual Northern Breakfast. The breakfast honored TAMU summer cadets making their final summer cruise.

Michener told cadets that he was sailing to New Orleans with them to fulfill a lifelong obligation.

"I've sailed on all the oceans of the world," he said, "but have never sailed the Gulf of Mexico."

"I'm going on the journey to fulfill that obligation, one I've had very long time," Michener said.

He spoke of a 27-day journey on a small boat during which he never had any dry clothing. Michener said it reminded him of the heroism of those who sailed the seas before modern navigational equipment.

"It was an experience people should have to go through only once," he said. Lessons mankind learned from the world are divided 50-50 — what we learn on land and what we learn at sea, "with the knowledge from each fortifying the other, makes the meaning of the whole much greater," he said.

The trip to New Orleans, where cadets will participate in the Louisiana World Exposition and offer public tours of the Clipper through Thursday, is the first leg of a 72-day, 12,556-mile summer training cruise to Europe. Ports of call include Cork, Ireland; Edinburgh, Scotland; Lisbon; Portugal; and Funchal in the Madeira Islands.

Penny-per-worm hike called for
Worm diggers remain on strike

United Press International

WISCASSET, Maine — A month-long strike by hundreds of worm diggers who supply fishing bait on East Coast has no chance of succeeding unless demand picks up later this month as expected, diggers said Monday.

Sandworm diggers are now paid 4 cents for each slithery creature they scoop from mud flats at low tide along inlets on the Maine coast. The sandworm diggers want a penny-per-worm hike to 5 cents apiece.

Further up the Maine coast, bloodworm diggers in Washington and Hancock counties are also on strike. The bloodworm diggers are paid up to 7 cents a piece for their worms but want 8 cents per worm.

Worm digging is a \$4 million industry in Maine but prices to diggers have remained unchanged since 1978. The worms are used as bait for recreational salt water fisherman.

An estimated 200 Maine worm diggers are involved in the strike, now a month old. But enough diggers are still working to keep those on strike from getting their demands from dealers.

Maine is the primary commercial supplier of bloodworms and sandworms, which are dug in two sections of Maine: in Lincoln County in the mid-coast area and in the two eastern most counties of Hancock and Washington.

'For a strike to be effective on the digger level, it has got to practically stop the sale of bloodworms and sandworms.'

Sandworm diggers in Lincoln County are striking but sandworm diggers in the eastern flats are not. The bloodworm diggers in the eastern flats are striking but not their counterparts in Lincoln County.

As a result, the shippers are still getting enough supply of the worms to meet current demand, said worm dealer Ivan Flye of Newcastle.

"For a strike to be effective on the digger level, it has got to practically stop the sale of bloodworms and sandworms," said Flye, who ships to wholesale markets from New Hampshire to South Carolina. Some are shipped to California.

"But so far, I don't think the volume has been reduced 10 percent," he said.

Both shippers and diggers agree the situation will remain deadlocked until late June when demand expects to pick up heading toward the Independence Day weekend. Until then, the shippers have no incentive to pay a higher wage.

"I can't pay the increase, therefore I can't buy them, and the diggers won't dig them unless they get an increase," Flye said. "It's going to be a stalemate here unless the diggers throw in the towel and go back to work."

"I'm hopeful that sooner or later if the market gets better and demand gets better, they'll give us the money," said full-time sandworm digger David Lemar of Dresden.

The worm diggers are loosely organized, but are not unionized.

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