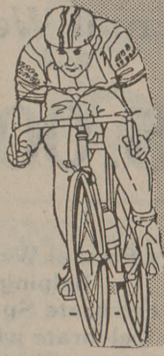


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## People hunting

TDC officials use trained dogs to capture escapees

(AP) — Nine dogs race across a sunlit, grassy field, gathering in the shade of a live oak to stare into its dark boughs and bark.

It's the successful end of an afternoon hunt.

Their quarry is Robert Dugger, a 44-year-old Texas Department of Corrections inmate.

Dogs are one of three prime security measures prisons have against escapes, says Rudy Artherholt, dog sergeant at the TDC's Ramsey II Unit.

"You can't beat the count, you can't beat the radio and you can't outrun the dogs," he says.

But dogs are not natural manhunters. They must be trained.

Their training starts when they are weaned.

They're taught first to ignore the instinct to chase animal scents and to recognize and follow human scents instead.

Artherholt has been in charge of the Ramsey II dog packs for eight years. Inmates do most of the actual training under his direction.

They start by playing with the puppies and running away, enticing them to follow.

Each day, they run a little farther until the puppies understand "hey, when he does that, I'm supposed to go find him," Artherholt said.

"For a puppy to mature into a good one, it takes about two years on an average. And not all of them make it," he says, estimating that out of a nine- or 10-puppy litter, only six or seven will make good tracking dogs.

Dogs that don't make the grade are eventually sold by the state.

The manhunting instinct is refined in frequent practice tracks in which dogs follow scents left by inmates.

On this day, Artherholt takes Dugger to a cow pasture south of the kennel shortly before 10 a.m.

Back at the kennel two hours later, Artherholt walks outside the fence, telling an inmate which dogs to release into the run.

He has 32 adult dogs divided into four packs and uses one pack per track.

Today, he uses Four Pack, comprised of Joe, Rock, Moose, Big Red, Honcho, Jim, Ruby, Rosie and Tom.

They are released into the run where they are teased into a frenzy by an inmate outside the fence or atop the kennel roof.

Artherholt whistles and tell the dogs, "Look for him."

The dogs leave the kennel about noon and a short time later reach the pasture where Dugger was dropped off. They fan out, appearing to be meandering through the field. But they aren't meandering aimlessly.

This is an experienced pack sniffing for a scent.

"We don't use pre-scent technique here," Artherholt says. "We drag our dogs." Dragging means working in outward circles, or semi-circles, noses to the ground.

Officials know who was supposed to be where on a prison every minute of the day, so the dogs are taken to the site where the escapee was last seen, Artherholt says.

The silence is broken when one dog barks.

The others file behind him, start sniffing and bark in response.

They pick up Dugger's scent and "line it out," running briskly behind the lead dog, barking the entire way.

"They're testifying," Artherholt says. "As long as they're on the trail, they'll testify."

The track proves difficult,

though. Dugger's scent gets mixed with those left by bulls and cows that frequent the fields he zig-zagged.

Artherholt knows roughly where the trail should be. He told Dugger where to put it. But he won't help the dogs find it.

This is training and if he helps them now, they'll expect help every time the job gets difficult, he says.

Artherholt runs short tracks. His predecessor at Ramsey II used to run 15-mile tracks around the perimeter of the 15,088-acre prison unit.

"I don't lay a long track, but I put a lot of work in a short track," Artherholt says.

Dugger has set a complicated, winding trail.

Artherholt says an actual track is easier for the dogs to follow because escapees will run off in a straight line.

There are other problems during an actual prison break, though, when escapees often have several hours' head start.

Under other circumstances, particularly on a cool, dewy night, the dogs would be hard to keep up with.

"A dog can run a horse to death. When the dogs pick it up, you try to

stay with the dogs," Artherholt says.

"If those dogs pick up a good, warm scent, they're going to leave you in the dust. Try to stay in hearing distance of them. Keep riding and listening. That's all you can do."

Near the end, they testify loudly and run faster. The scent is hot and the dogs know they are getting closer.

Dugger, who was standing beside the tree watching the dogs run through the paces during the last few minutes, climbed into the tree as the dogs came down off the levee beside the Brazos.

Within minutes the hunt is over. It has taken about two hours. They know where Dugger is.

He stays in the tree until told to come down.

Artherholt is concerned that people believe the TDC raises and uses man-killing dogs. The dogs are dangerous, but they know their job, he says. They are supposed to find their quarry and hold him until help arrives.

Five minutes later, Dugger is on the ground playing with the dogs.

"That's good, Red," he tells the dog. "You did good today. You did good today."

## Flying the crowded skies

(AP) — Scheduled airlines carried more than a million passengers a day in domestic and international operations in 1985, the Air Transport Association reported in a year-end review.

U.S. airlines transported more than 375 million passengers on 5.6 million flights, with passenger miles exceeding 330 billion.

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