

Sidelight Stories Are Retold On Hunt for Escaped Convicts

RAMSEY--Sidelights on the police hunt for the two escaped convicts, as gathered from various sources, included the following:

Mrs. Jane MacFarran of Darlington Ave. has an aunt, Mrs. Edna Shuart, who visited her on Wednesday of last week. She was to be met at the bus stop by the First National Bank just before noon by Bob MacFarran, Jane's husband. Connections were not made and she walked to Darlington Ave. She couldn't understand

how 'Mac' missed the bus and mentioned that "everybody noticed those two men topcoats got off". The bus driver kidded them about it, and they told him they were tough and that this was like Spring where they came from.

Later, from pictures in the newspapers, she identified the two as the convicts, one sitting with her and the other behind her. She said that they looked very nice. When one of them brushed

against her, he murmured, "Excuse me".

Mr. MacFarran had been waiting for the bus, but at the wrong time. In fact, he had a good witness in police chief Al Doremus who came out of the bank and asked him whether he was holding up the building or the building was holding up him.

The Journal staff kept track of part of the chase. The police radio in the office was able to pick up all outgoing messages from the Ramsey headquarters and a few of the incoming ones. Mostly they were concerned with sending men to locations where the convicts were reported. No request, no matter how trivial, was ignored.

In one exchange, it was learned that Ptl. Ad Waldeck had gone off to Allendale with Lt. Norman Stegen's handcuff key. The first captured man, Michael Salvi, couldn't walk, as his ankles were cuffed together. He was to be returned to Allendale to retrace his steps, in an effort to find the missing Prins. The radio barked at one time, "if you don't get that key back here, we'll drag or carry you down".

That same Officer Waldeck, in company with Sgt. John Gates, was patrolling in the water department's radio-equipped truck. Both were in civilian clothes. One of the late trains came in the station; uniformed police went through the coaches from the platform side, and Gates and Waldeck, hand lights and weapons in hand, went down the tracks covering them.

The two were patrolling on Rt. 17 when they noted a bus stopping to pick up a man in front of Club 300. The man fitted the description of one of the suspects and in a minute the bus was stopped. The suspect was in the rear of the bus and Sgt. Gates strode

there, pistol in hand. Waldeck guarded the door, armed with the carbine. The man was hustled to the door, searched, and explained himself. The police apologized and the fellow got back on the bus. According to the sergeant, the bus passengers had some strange facial expressions.

A good "Untouchables" script could be written about parts of the manhunt. There was the "great train commandeering", and earlier there was the "big catch" of a high school teacher. The 7:10 AM for New York was at the Erie Lackawanna station in Ramsey when word came that Prins was found north of Elizabeth Avenue, Ramsey. Mahwah Ptl. Amos Smith was sent in his car to the borough garage. Mounting the engine of the train were Ramsey patrolmen Fred Smith and Bob Engstrom. Big Fred was armed with a sawed-off shotgun or riot gun.

They asked the engineer to let them off somewhere down by the signal tower, but he demurred, worried about whether his engine would be hit in a gun battle. Fred assured him that "the Ramsey police department would fix his engine somehow", and that if he didn't get going, he would "receive a punch in the nose". One of the officers worked and the two officers rode the engine's front platform to where they wanted to go. The train slowed down so they could jump off, and before they could pay their fare, the train was gone.

The teacher in question was doing some running exercises along the Erie tracks between 4 and 5 PM. He was reported as a suspicious character. By the carload, armed-to-the-teeth police sped to Finch Park, spread out in a skirmish line and advanced.

Other carloads whipped into the Ramsey Lumber Company yard and started their advance to meet the oncoming police. North Central Ave. was sealed off, and the trap tightened. Almost bagged doing his daily mile was popular high school science teacher "Doc Hook. The radio came to life with a remark that "it was some teacher doing his calisthenics". Everyone trooped back to Ramsey headquarters.

Road blocks were all over a 10 mile radius, manned mostly by state and county police. It was termed one of the largest manhunts in Bergen County history. The state line was guarded by troopers of both states as a 13 state alarm was posted. Firearms in evidence ranged from small detective pistols to large shotguns. Rifles and carbines were carried, as were submachine guns and gas guns. At one time, the heavy artillery unit at Crestwood Lake consisted of a Reising machine gun, a sawed-off shotgun and a carbine.

There were almost as many news photographers and reporters as there were policemen. Their only arms were Speed Gra-

phics and pencils. The rush from the Ramsey headquarters for Allendale when Frank Parenti captured Salvi was the height of confusion, said one police officer. Reporters and police fell all over each other, going out the one door.

The many people of the news medias were sent upstairs in the firehouse by the police. Many of them spent the entire night there waiting for the final capture. When too many long distance calls were made on the fire phone, it was forcibly removed by a police officer. Pay telephones around Main St. were at a premium.

Most of the New York papers and all the nearby dailies were well represented. The Associated Press and UPI were around and so was CBS and WNEW. Chief Doremus and Sgt. Gates made Channel 2 on Thursday but at 2 PM instead of 7 PM when everybody was waiting to see them.

The photographers' most popular target, or so it seemed, was the tall police chief from Upper Saddle River, Andy Otens. He even made the front page of the Daily News. Ptl. Smith of Ramsey no midget himself, was erroneously captioned in one news picture as Otens.

All of the local police worked double shifts, not stopping until the final capture was made. Sgt. Gates took a little ribbing for carrying his carbine around all day, but no-one said a word about it after 7:30 AM Thursday. The whole operation generated quite a bit of pride among townspeople of both Allendale and Ramsey, because of the splendid action of their men. It was fitting that local men made both arrests.

Chief Bob Wilson of Allendale was at his police headquarters tending the radio when word came of the capture by Parenti. His car was blocked in by cars of blood donors and he went inside to borrow the keys to Mayor Bob Newman's car, parked on the street. Newman, about to give blood, stopped what he was doing and went to cover the police radio. Chief Wilson said one had to see

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