

Expect Executive Clemency Will Be Sought For Walker

Plans Of Gulfport, Miss., Sought Clemency For Columbus County Man Who Returned To Prison After 16 Years

RELATIVES HERE ALSO TO AID IN EFFORT

Lived A Respected Citizen In Gulfport Since His Escape From Prison In 1919; Sentenced For Killing Sheriff



(Cut Courtesy News & Observer)

Some indication that a direct appeal will be made shortly to Governor Ehringhaus to extend clemency to Jesse C. Walker, former Columbus man who voluntarily returned to North Carolina prison to finish out a 30-year sentence for murder, has been made this week, as reports from Gulfport, Miss., where Walker lived as a respected citizen for 16 years during his escape from prison.

Escaping from prison in 1919 after serving four years of the 30-year sentence imposed on him for the slaying of Sheriff Jack Stanley, of Brunswick county in 1915, Walker fled to the Bayou State to establish himself in business. He married, and has reared a family there.

Ten days ago, he voluntarily returned to the North Carolina prison in Raleigh to finish out his term, because he wanted a "clear conscience." He came to Whiteville and visited relatives before returning to the cold gray prison walls, and they accompanied him to Raleigh.

Accompanying pictures show Walker, (top) before he escaped and (below) as he looks today. There has been some indication that relatives and friends in this county would join in the efforts to secure the release of Walker. He was well-known in this county, having been born and reared here. He has dozens of close relatives and hundreds of acquaintances in the county who will follow with interest the developments in his case.

Informed of the development in Gulfport, where Walker, known as Frank Manning, had built up a fine reputation, Warden H. H. Honeycutt said he would notify Walker of his friends' effort.

Since his return to the prison, because I wanted to ease my conscience," Walker has expressed appreciation for public sympathy in his case and said he hoped that he would receive clemency in due course.

No petition in his behalf has been received by Governor Ehringhaus, who said all appeals in Walker's behalf must go through the regular channels.

Walker, whose hair turned from black to snow white during his 16 years of stolen liberty, said upon his voluntary return to the prison: "God has forgiven me, I hope man will." He is now 46 years of age.

"It was hard to give up everything outside when I knew what was like here but I had a debt to pay," said Walker. "I had worried. It hung over me. You can't describe it in words but you are always fearful of everybody you don't know—and some you do know."

He has not been assigned to a job in the prison, but will probably get some work in connection with the renovations now in progress there.

FRIENDS IN GULFPORT START CLEMENCY MOVE

Gulfport, Miss., April 23.—A movement was launched here today to seek clemency for Jesse Walker, who surrendered to North Carolina authorities at Raleigh early this week after being for 16 years a fugitive from prison where he had served four years of a 30-year term for killing a sheriff.

Known here for the last nine years as Frank Manning, a model citizen, he left his wife without advising her of his intention to give himself up. She said today she had received a letter from him, written after his arrival in Raleigh.

Mrs. Manning became almost hysterical upon receipt of the letter from her husband informing her he had surrendered to prison authorities.

He left home about two weeks ago presumably to seek employment, according to his wife, and the next she heard from him was the letter that said he was back in the prison from which he had been a fugitive. Mrs. Manning today laid her case before Sheriff Oscar Meador here.

Manning had built up an excellent reputation among his neighbors while living here and they immediately began preparing testimonial petitions hoping to effect his release.

In recent months Manning became deeply religious and devoted much time to Bible study. Neighbors revealed, and was a frequent attendant at a church

General Shake-Up In Relief Office

Several Transfers And New Appointments Made In The ERA Office Here During The Past Several Days

The ERA office situated here has had a general shake-up within the past week.

The net result has been that one case worker has been transferred to Brunswick county and two imported from that county. The district now has a social service supervisor, and a district home economist, two offices which it has not had up until to date.

Miss Ada McRackan, formerly head case worker for this county, and a native of Whiteville, has been selected for social service supervisor for this district. Replacing her as head case worker is Leslie N. Raddatz. He has been in the county for sometime working as a case worker, was educated at Notre Dame University and the University of North Carolina.

Mrs. Irma Wallace has come to this district as home economist. This is an office which had not heretofore been established in the district.

From Brunswick county comes two case workers, J. L. Stearns, a native of Monroe, and Miss Thelma Chinnis, of Phoenix. They are replacing Mr. Raddatz and Charles Greer, who last week was transferred to Southport office.

The duties of the new social service supervisor will be to check on the work of the case workers of the district, answer complaints that come in, settle problems of the Social Service division, and interpret the policies of the social service division.

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ROYAL VISITORS



Prince Tsunenori Kaya and his wife, Princess Toshiko Kaya, members of the Japanese imperial family, who are making a tour of the United States.

Forecasts Halt In Dry Weather

Captain See Says World To Have No More Droughts For Seven Years

San Francisco, April 23.—No more droughts in the world for seven years was the prediction here of Captain T. J. J. See, retired United States Navy astronomer.

Even recent dust storms in the middle west were regarded as a good omen by the astronomer, who for 36 years has been engaged in studies of climatic cycles, which he attributes to variations in the sun's radiation.

The drought period throughout the world ended in August, 1934, Captain See declared in a written report. He viewed the dust storms as evidence that winds which bring rain to the earth

had returned. "The rain cycle, which will last seven years," Captain See said, "began in the latter part of 1934 and has now largely relieved the suffering from years of drought in every continent of the globe."

He declared the "rain cycle" will correspond in general with the increase of sun spots recently noted by various astronomers. "The sun has been too hot since 1930," the veteran navy astronomer and mathematician asserted, "with maximum heat in 1933-34, when the sun spots almost disappeared."

He asserted the returning spots would cool the sun and storms on earth would follow.

Floods in various parts of the world, typhoons some months ago in the vicinity of the Philippine Islands and heavy storms at sea were pointed to by the astronomer as further supporting his prediction.

Captain See said that during drought periods the sun has a widely expanded corona, under super heat incident to the absence of darkening spots. He said he

noted this during the 1921-22 droughts in Russia, China and the United States.

"Then during 1930-34," he added, "I carefully verified the great law of nature that the rainfall of our globe is regulated by the 11-year waves of sun spots, by showing graphically, for the past 70 years, that the level of Lake Erie regularly rises and falls with the wave of the sun spots."

Captain See expressed belief the "cycle" theory of droughts and rains may be accepted as proved.

FREELAND

Friends are very sorry to know of the illness of Mr. Silas I. King and hoping that he will soon recover.

Misses Lillie King, Ada Lee King, Maggie Babson, Loyd King and Stacy King were visiting at Old Dock Sunday.

Misses Geneva Best, Beulah Tompkins and Geneva Coleman were visiting Miss Lucile King Sunday.

Friends will be sorry to learn of the death of Zeno King. He was ill for some time.

Miss Lela Simmons spent Monday night with Miss Helen Harrelson, of Longwood.

Jarvis Inman, Zeno Inman, Will Inman, Tom King and Dayton Wright were at Whiteville to take in the show at the New Columbus Theatre Saturday.

Misses Lillian Watts, Clara King, Eva Mae Wilson and Elouise Simmons were visiting in Kingtown Sunday.

Norman King and Clemit Milliken were visiting at G. W. Babson's Sunday afternoon.

Misses Lillian Watts and Clara King were visiting at Longwood Sunday afternoon.

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