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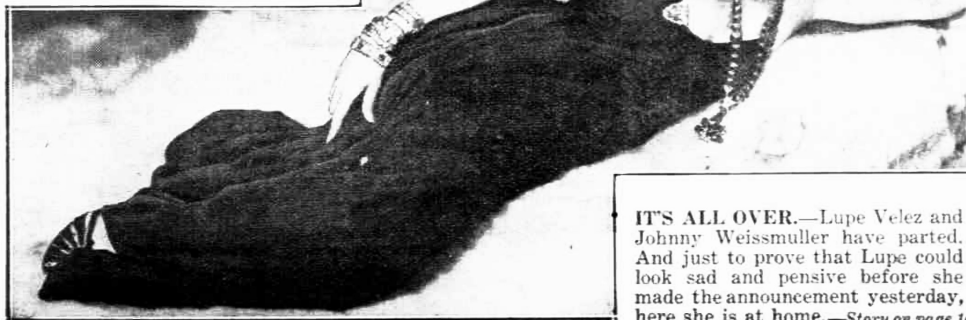
WELFARE IS. RAID BARES GRAFT, VICE

— Story on Page 3



(NEWS photo by Twyman)

TOO MUCH WELFARE.— Early morning sortie by police and Commissioner of Correction disclosed Welfare Island Penitentiary yesterday as haven of weapons, drugs, wagon-loads of contraband and wholesale corruption. Above, some of the confiscated possessions tossed out on floor.—Story on page 3.



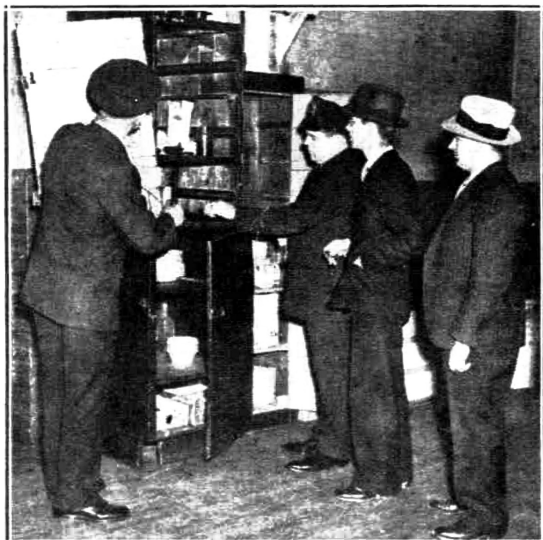
IT'S ALL OVER.—Lupe Velez and Johnny Weissmuller have parted. And just to prove that Lupe could look sad and pensive before she made the announcement yesterday, here she is at home.—Story on page 10



(NEWS photo by William Hoff)

YOUR SICK MAYOR.— Defying doctors orders, Mayor LaGuardia took his attack of gripe to Albany yesterday to direct battle for his economy bill. Here he is at 125th St. Station, rubbing his forehead and looking none too good.—Story on page 2.

Leading City Prison Raid



Commissioner of Correction Austin H. MacCormick (hand in pocket) and Deputy Commissioner David Marcus (right) in their search for contraband at Welfare Island Prison. They are examining cabinet filled with smuggled food supplies.

Jury to Get Prince Murder Case Today

By JULIA MCCARTHY.

THE evidence that will send Mrs. Millie Prince either to prison for twenty years to life or back into the world exonerated of the murder of her 58-year-old admirer was completed in Queens County Court yesterday.

After stormy morning and afternoon sessions, in which the dark-haired defendant sobbed a repetition of her story of fatally stabbing Charles J. Wolfert to protect her honor, prosecution and defense rested at 4:30 P. M.

Trial will resume this morning with summing up, and it is expected that by noon Judge Thomas Downs will begin his charge to the jury.

Clings to Attack Story.

Weathering a merciless barrage of questions under cross-examination by Assistant District Attorney James J. Conroy, the frail, somberly clad woman clung desperately to her original story.

She insisted she plunged the blade of a souvenir pocket-knife into the love-lorn jeweler when a passion he had nursed for five years culminated in an attempted criminal assault in a Queens glade near North Beach last Sept. 6.

Time and again Defense Counsel Samuel Leibowitz leaped to the aid of the embattled witness with swift court maneuvers, objections and exceptions.

Resuming the stand at the opening of the third day of her trial, the 31-year-old Queens housewife

spent the greater part of the morning and afternoon sessions under a drum-fire of cross-examination and re-direct examination questioning, which was liberally interspersed with questions by Judge Downs.

In going over the story of the fatal tryst on the old Steinway estate brought out under Tuesday's direct examination, Assistant District Attorney Conroy failed to shake in essential detail the woman's protest that she stabbed her aged admirer as the result of an attempted criminal attack.

Clashes Are Frequent.

Frequent verbal clashes between the bench and Defense Counsel Leibowitz interrupted the questioning of the witness. One of these occurred when Leibowitz struck out in a sarcastic vein.

Q. Did you stab Wolfert because he would not go away with you?

A. No.

Q. Did you stab him because he would not give you money? A. No.

Q. Did you stab him for any other reason than the fact that he

(Continued on page 4, col. 2)

Defendant and Fatal Knife

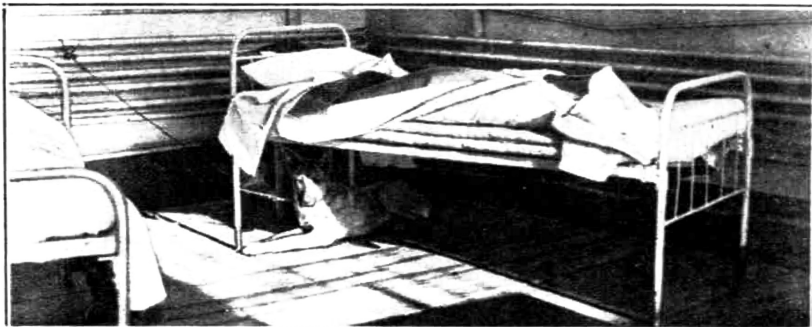
Mrs. Millie Prince holding the knife with which Charles J. Wolfert was slain, during a court conference with her attorney, Samuel Leibowitz, yesterday.



Welfare Raid Ends Rule of Vice, Dope

By LOWELL LIMPUS.

COMMISSIONER of Correction Austin H. MacCormick recaptured Welfare Island Penitentiary from the gangsters yesterday, and last night he was busy digging in and consolidating his position. Accompanied by a flying squad of police and trusted keepers, MacCormick and Deputy Commissioner



The police dog guard in the quarters of Ed Cleary, Welfare Island convict. The dog was chained beside the bed. Scores of carrier pigeons in elaborate cotes were found in Cleary's quarters. He was removed to an ordinary cell.

David Marcus swooped down on the island, replaced the regular authorities and drove sixty-eight petted prisoners from luxurious quarters into cells.

The invaders discovered wagon-loads of contraband, including weapons of every description and quantities of drugs. They found a section of the prison where rouged and mascaraed prisoners flaunted an appalling degeneracy beneath the very eyes of the officials. They revealed hospital wards crowded with perfectly healthy inmates living in luxurious ease.

Deputy Warden Daniel Sheehan, caught by the raiders out of uniform, was placed in "military arrest" and shipped off to Correction Hospital in custody of Warden Henry Schlett, to await trial on charges of neglect of duty. Warden Joseph C. McCann found himself deprived of all authority, except that exercised under the specific guidance of MacCormick or Marcus. Dr. Abraham Norman, Department Medical Director, saw Dr. Louis Berg, a visiting physician, take full charge of hospital activities. Other penitentiary officials found themselves superseded by outside deputy wardens and plain keepers.

Joie Rao, suave, well-dressed kingpin convict, who has been the real warden, was deprived

their host of favored followers into cells. Both Rao and Cleary had several score carrier pigeons in elaborate cotes.

After the Rao and Cleary quarters were ransacked, the raiders began on the regular tiers and everywhere the contraband rained down. The floors were covered in some places to a depth of two feet or more. The search continued far into the night, with van loads of drug addicts being dispatched to Correction Hospital as fast as they were located.

The mass of the convicts, who had stormed and screamed in their cages as the search got under way, quieted down when the word spread that the "politicians" were being deprived of their special privileges and that the New Deal was at hand. Most of the keepers went beaming about their duties, cheerfully working overtime, as they assured reporters that they rejoiced in their freedom from convict domination.



Warden Joseph C. McCann Deprived of all authority.

of his royal quarters and silk underwear and headed the exodus of exiled monarchs to bare, cold cells. With him went Bosco Mazzio, his right-hand man, and a host of lesser lights. They were removed from the comfortable Administration Building hospital quarters, where only six of fifty occupants were found to be ill.

Over in the Dormitory Hospital another gang monarch fell when Ed Cleary was deprived of his police-dog-guarded quarters and accompanied Peter Kenny and

Evidence Kept Secret.

The raid was the culmination of a probe of conditions in City Prisons, which has been in progress for the last three weeks. It was instituted by Marcus, who took charge of the department on Jan. 1, in the absence of Commissioner MacCormick. The Marcus investigation was launched following the submission of a mass of evidence collected by investigators for The News, who had been working on the matter for months.

Much of the evidence dealt with the situation uncovered by yesterday's raid, but which had been withheld by The News in order to



Deputy Warden Daniel Sheehan Placed under "military arrest."

assist the authorities to consummate their successful coup. The News withheld testimony indicated just where the members of the posse should go in order to find many of the things they did find. This prevented the possible destruction of evidence.

Trouble loomed as night fell, however, with three classes of prisoners plainly rebellious. The deposed favorites, not even released from their cells for meals, were fighting mad; the drug addicts were beginning to feel and bewail the loss of their dope and the degenerates were frantic over the confiscation of their feminine treasures. Both MacCormick and Marcus remained at the Island for the night, prepared to face emergencies.

Find Mash. Hunt Still.

The discovery of thirty gallons of whisky mash in one of the prison kitchens late last night precipitated a search for a still. This find, together with that of empty whisky bottles drove home the fact that a few gangsters had lived

(Continued on Page 27.)

Welfare Raid Ends Rule of Vice, Dope



Commissioner MacCormick (center) searching boxes found in the possession of Welfare Island prisoners for drugs and contraband.

(Continued from page 3)

royally, surrounded by dope, booze and every luxury, while the great majority of the 1,656 inmates dragged out a dreary existence in utter misery.

Keepers and inmates united in telling stories of the reign of the racketeers, which indicated that these scions of special privilege enjoyed unparalleled freedom. They abused and terrorized other inmates, threatened the honest keepers and roamed at will through the institution.

Clad in Feminine Underwear.

The West Wing section, where the effeminate males had their boudoirs right next to the "Cooler"



Joie Rao

Exiled convict monarch.

or punishment group, presented a fantastic appearance as the raiders swept through it.

Reporters were unable to understand the existence of such a colony in a prison. Long-haired men, their faces covered with rouge and their eyelids dripping mascara, came swishing out of the cells, garbed in filmy, feminine underthings. They identified themselves under such pseudonyms as "Jean Harlow, Lupe Velez, Greta Garbo, Madame Butterfly, Wanda Hawley, Kitty Darling and Marilyn Miller."

Compacts, Perfumes, Wigs.

High-heeled shoes, compacts, perfume, powder puffs, step-ins and even a silky, woman's wig came fluttering down into the corridors as the posse worked its way along. Here, as elsewhere, the prisoners made haste to throw their contraband out of the cells before the raiders could reach them.

In the more masculine divisions of the prison, the piles of discarded articles included electric stoves, great chunks of uncooked meat, dozens of loaves of bread, canned goods, a Bible, a walking stick, hundreds of knives and stilettos, a business-like hatchet, clubs and iron bars, rugs, lamp shades, razor blades and quantities of drugs and cooking utensils for the preparation of the latter.

Rao, reputed to be the drug king

of the penitentiary, occupied a comfortable bed in the hospital, where he was designated as "Captain of the Hospital Squad." An expensive radio set stood beside it, and a beautiful red bathrobe lay across it. Well shined shoes, on shoetrees, were beside his carpet slippers.

His personal closet was laden with monogrammed stationery and handkerchiefs, silk underwear, fourteen boxes of powder and face lotions, six boxes of good cigars, candy, cigarettes, black wool sweaters and shirts. Rao himself presented a perfect picture of what the well-dressed prisoner wears when the raiders crashed into the room.

He was shaving at the time and carelessly waved them aside, explaining that he would "come out with the next batch."

Stoaky Commissioner Marcus, ex-Army officer and one time West Point intercollegiate boxing champion, charged at him with a snappy "You'll come NOW—into a cell, where you belong." And Rao went, meek as a lamb. His police record shows twelve arrests between 1920 and Jan. 7, 1932, when he was sent to the penitentiary for conspiracy. His henchman, Mazzio, sentenced on the same charge had been arrested eighteen times between 1911 and Oct. 12, 1931.

Warden Was Raid Guest.

Rao had the most luxurious quarters in the prison but Cleary ran him a close second. Cleary, sentenced for unlawful entry on Jan. 22, 1932, after five arrests since 1914, was listed as a "Day Nurse" in the Dormitory Hospital. This hospital was abolished by Commissioner MacCormick yesterday, when he found the twelve best beds occupied by petted prisoners. Cleary had his pigeon cote built into the hospital room, and his snarling police dog chained near his bed. The latter, a savage animal, responded to the name of "Screw-Hater." ("Screw is convict slang for keeper or guard.") A wicked looking stiletto was stuck in the window sill above the bed.

Warden McCann was an invited guest at the raid, but he knew nothing of the plans when he joined the gathering at the Commissioner's office in the Municipal Building at 8:30 in the morning. He first learned of them as MacCormick issued orders to the members of the posse.

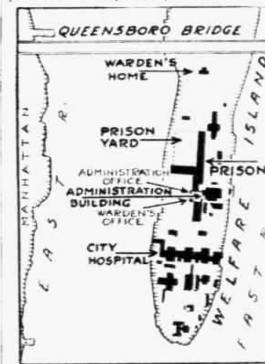
The latter consisted of Deputy Commissioner Marcus, Deputy Wardens Lazarus Levy of Rikers Island and James Thomson, of Raymond Street Jail; Head Keepers Louis Lorch, of Correction Hospital, Peter Quinn of the Penitentiary, Carl Brodis of Correction Hospital, and Keepers John McDonald and John Ryan, of the Penitentiary. Dr. Louis Berg, of 1024 Park Ave. had charge of the drug probe, assisted by Detectives William Cych, Percy Harmon and Edward McManus, of the Narcotic Squad.

Detective Frank Langan, of

Headquarters, acted as aid to the Commissioner, and Department Secretary George Bouchever accompanied the raiders.

Police Guard Entrance.

At the island they were joined by twenty-five keepers from Correction Hospital and some thirty policemen, specially detailed by



(NEWS) BY STAFF ARTIST BOUQUET
A detail map of Welfare Island and the city prison there.

Chief Inspector Lewis J. Valentine. Patrol wagons and prison vans reported for the transfer of prisoners, and Inspector Byron Sackett, with five men, took charge of the Queensborough Bridge entrance and barred all visitors to the penitentiary from the elevators.

Reaching the prison, the raiders charged in and split up under their leaders. His mates were amazed to see a simple keeper, known throughout the department as Square Jack Ryan, taking charge of a special detail of searchers.

The posse went to work briskly. One wing was emptied of prisoners, searched and then the occupants of other blocks were hastily transferred to it while their cells were gone through. Meanwhile, Dr. Berg went after the drug addicts, and soon the vans were busy hauling the men he indicated to Correction Hospital. More than 180 of them were so transferred during the day.

Dr. Berg and his detectives stripped each suspected inmate and examined him for fresh needle scars.

Mayor Off for Albany.

Meanwhile, Marcus led a group of keepers to the Administration Building Hospital and collared the Rao-Mazzio gang. He then hurried over to the Dormitory Hospital and locked up the Cleary-Kenny followers. After that he plunged into a search of the cell tiers.

In the Dormitory Hospital he found quantities of vegetables and an ice-box stored with rich cream and milk. A private dining room showed where the favored few ate



One of the caches for food and supplies found in Commissioner MacCormick's raid on Welfare Island. Smuggled contraband in this case was hidden in the base of a grandfather clock.

their meals. It was equipped with a card table and radio and in a nearby cupboard were a number of well sharpened butcher knives. The food arrangements showed that these prisoners undoubtedly had better fare than their keepers.

A special van, with keepers, drove to the home of Warden McCann and returned with two dozen well dressed inmates, who had been detailed there for duty. Like the others, these men were promptly ushered to cells.

Commissioner MacCormick was everywhere, supervising the raid and answering the questions of the reporters who had accompanied him. He told them that he had undertaken the raid without consulting Mayor LaGuardia.

The Mayor first learned of it as he was boarding a train for Albany. Asked to comment, he responded:

"Doesn't it speak for itself?" Later he amplified this with the statement: "This is typical and a perfectly good example of conditions I inherited from the Administrations of the last eight years, and I have to go to Albany in order to get the means to save the city."

"This is indicative of what my Administration plans to do in the future," he added. "Of course, the raid today was different from the raids this city has had for the past eight years. They've been raiding the City Treasury for that length of time."

Taking over the office of Warden McCann and establishing his headquarters there, Commissioner MacCormick was ruling the penitentiary last night. He was also preparing to take action against certain officials, for whose negligence he blamed the conditions at the prison.

Charges against Sheehan will be drawn up and filed today, he announced. The principal specification will be neglect of duty, though he was guilty of violating Department regulations when he was found out of uniform. "I wouldn't trust Sheehan a minute," commented the Commissioner last night.

The Deputy Warden remained in custody of Warden Schleth. MacCormick gave the latter strict orders that Sheehan was not to be permitted to communicate with anybody in the prison organization, although he was authorized to get in touch with its attorney and to notify its family of its situation.

Warden McCann's status was not exactly clear. He had not been relieved from duty, although he was stripped of all authority. He was permitted to issue instructions only when specifically authorized to do so by MacCormick or Marcus. The former announced that the

Warden would be relieved after the prison is straightened out.

Dr. Norman also found himself deprived of most of his authority. He continued to look after the patients in the penitentiary hospital, but Dr. Berg plainly enjoyed



Ed Cleary

Deprived of police dog guard.

the confidence of the Commissioner and his recommendations were promptly carried out. He assumed a sort of supervisory status with regard to medical matters.

At a late hour Dr. Norman had not officially been asked to explain the presence of so many healthy inmates in the prison hospitals.

Like Warden McCann, Dr. Norman was clearly ill at ease during the proceedings. He was dressing when the invaders burst into the hospital rooms at 10 o'clock in the morning, and was plainly dumfounded by the arrival of the unexpected visitors.

The entire excursion was so well planned that no word of it apparently leaked out. The first notice of the onslaught was the arrival of the long train of cars, from which members of the posse burst forth and went racing up the walk to the main entrance. MacCormick was the first man in, closely followed by Marcus and the detectives.

(Other picture on page 1)

Because of the space required by the story of the raid on Welfare Island the third article of a series on repeal by Robin Harris is omitted from today's issue of The News.