

San Quentin Convicts Found Guilty; Face Noose for Escape Try

Reprinted from
Healdsburg Tribune,
April 5, 1935

Jury Declines to Ask Mercy for Two in Daring Break

BANDITS BOARD TRAIN, HOLD UP

SAN RAFAEL, April 5.—Alex McKay and Joe Kristy, the two remaining members of the band of four convicts who staged a sensational prison break from San Quentin last January, were found guilty on 11 counts of a grand jury indictment, two of which carried the death penalty, by a jury in the superior court here late Thursday.

There was no recommendation for mercy.

The men were found guilty of kidnaping and kidnaping for the purpose of robbery, of escape, grand theft and burglary.

The prisoners sat silent and wooden faced as their attorney filed notice of an appeal.

Neither of the men convicted Thursday was a life-termer prior to their desperate break attempt. The ringleader of the break, Rudolph Straight, was shot and killed by District Attorney Albert E. Bagshaw during the capture. The fourth member of the band, Fred Landers, pleaded guilty and was given a life term on Bagshaws recommendation.

Warden James B. Holohan, who was slugged and critically injured by Straight, told Bagshaw that Landers had prevented Straight from killing him outright.

The grand theft charge against the convicts was based on the fact they stole a state automobile in front of Warden Holohan's home, forced members of the prison board into it, and fled with the state officials acting as involuntary "bullet shields" only to be captured a few hours later.



When San Quentin prison convicts were fleeing a few months ago after a desperate kidnaping of state officials, District Attorney Albert Bagshaw helped capture them in a running gun battle. The prosecutor battled the three survivors again, in court at San Rafael. Left to right: Bagshaw, Fred Landers, serving life for his part in the break; Joe Kristy and Alex MacKay, who will hang following conviction Thursday.