

PRISON MUSEUM POST

The Official Newsletter of the Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association
Incorporated in 1966

Volume XII, Issue II

July 17, 2012

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PMA!

PMA Busy Planning Upcoming Events

Thanks to those who joined and renewed memberships with the PMA. If your name is not on the attached List of Members and you renewed or joined, please contact us at our email address below. Our fiscal year ended on June 30. This is always the time of year that we review our finances, hold our breath and hope we have sufficient moolah to continue to sponsor great events like First Night, The Battle of Iron Works Hill and the Treasure Hunt, and to continue to acquire great items such as our model ship and our movie screen. We will in fact be able to help sponsor **The Reenactment of the Battle of Iron Works Hill on Saturday, December 8 and First Night in Mt. Holly on New Years' Eve.** Save the date for these great events.

As always, our ability to sponsor events, create publications and otherwise promote the Jail depends largely on the success of our **Haunted Prison** in October. We are already busy making plans for this annual event and call upon all PMA members to help us promote it. Board Members **Clark Bish** and **Ian Johns** will be at the Farm Fair this week promoting the Haunt, Iron Works Hill and the Prison Museum and we thank them for their dedication to the cause.

SUMMER HORROR MOVIE SERIES CONTINUES

NOSETRATU and INSIDIOUS to be shown July 21

The third show in our summer movie series was rained out on July 14 and so will be shown this Saturday, July 21. The show starts at sundown (approximately 8:30 pm). Admission is \$7. Bring a lawn chair. Refreshments will be sold. This week's features will be *Insidious* and *Nosferatu*. *Nosferatu* is the Classic 1922 German silent horror film starring Max Schrenk as the vampire Count Orlok. It was an unauthorized adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

The fourth and final show will be held on Saturday, August 11 and will feature *The Night of the Living Dead* and *Final Destination 5*. There will be no rain date.

Historic Burlington County Prison Museum Association ("PMA")

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Please help us preserve and promote the Prison Museum by joining the PMA. Our annual dues are only \$15(individual)/\$25 (family). Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, event updates, 10% off gift shop purchases, and free admission to the museum. Go on website for an application.

THE STORY OF SAFECRACKER EDDIE ADAMSKI

As our old members know, the *Prison Museum Post* usually includes some historical tidbits relating to the Jail, usually in the form of old newspaper articles. Attached to this issue are excerpts from articles which appeared in 1933 about one of our most colorful inmates, the nationally known mob figure Eddie Adamski of the "After Dinner Gang". The gang robbed wealthy South Jersey and Philadelphia families while they were out for dinner.

Adamski ended up in the Burlington County Jail as a result of attempting to pawn a ring from one of the heists in a Newark hock shop. His interrogation by County Detective Ellis Parker revealed Adamski's connection with a pistol stolen in Illinois and used to murder a man in Palmyra. The articles described Adamski's daring escape from custody. Our readers can decide for themselves if Adamski really did escape through the little hole or if he "slugged a guard" to escape, as one of Parker's detectives concluded.

Parker eventually tracked him down in New York City and brought him back to Burlington County, where he was tried for the Palmyra murder as well as the robberies.

Readers will notice that Adamski is called "Jimmy Valentine" in the articles, a reference to the marvelous O'Henry story, *A Retrieved Reformation*, about a reformed safecracker named Jimmy Valentine. Valentine had given up his criminal ways and settled down in a nice little town under an assumed name with a good woman with whom he had fallen in love. His identity was revealed, however, when he had to use his special prowess to retrieve a little child who had wandered into and become locked in a safe. Did he end up in jail? You'll have to read the story.

ESCAPED!

FROM THE COUNTY JAIL AT MOUNT HOLLY, BURLINGTON COUNTY, N. J.
EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 18, 1933



EDWARD KORONKOVITZ

alias, EDWARD ADAMSKY, *alias*, EDWARD ADAMS
alias, HARRY BURNS *alias*, JOHN JONES

Age 28.

Weight 168 lbs.

Complexion Light

Height 6 ft.

Hair Light Brown.

Eyes Light Yellow

Tattoo as follows: Right Arm—Egyptian head, horseshoe, horsehead, "Forever"
Amer. Shield & Eagle, U.S.A. 1922, Cupid doll, Amer. Eagle
& Shield.

Left Arm—Indian head, nude woman, cross, "E.K." heart,
rose, bracelet, 1922; "True Love to Mother."

FINGER PRINT CLASSIFICATION:

1 A 2a 2

1 A 3a

This man ESCAPED from the Mount Holly, New Jersey, Jail, where he was held on two charges of Burglary. He is a professional Safe Robber, can either feel a combination, drill or blow a safe, or "bust" a safe. He is also a first-class burglar. Always packs a gun and is a dangerous person. He has been locked up in many prisons. The last long bit he served was five years in Philadelphia for a Jewelry Store Robbery.

If this man should be apprehended, wire me at my expense, and I will prepare the necessary papers and send for him at once. Send all information to

ELLIS H. PARKER, Chief of County Detectives,

Mount Holly, N. J.

CAMDEN EVENING COURIER

June 19, 1933

PRIZE PRISONER HELD SECRETLY SEVEN WEEKS SAWS WAY OUT

Guarded Rigidly, Segregated From Others, Accused of Two Robberies

SLIPS THROUGH HOLE 'TOO TINY FOR ANY MAN'

Drops to Yard by 'Rope' of Sheets; Saw Horse Helps Him Over Wall

Eddie Adamski, most notorious of local gangland safecrackers, has escaped from the Mt. Holly jail. He was in solitary confinement, allegedly under special guard and allowed no visitors other than his sister. He sawed away the bars of his cell early yesterday and fled hours before his disappearance was discovered.

The famed "Jimmy Valentine" of Camden-Philadelphia mobsters was a mystery prisoner at Mt. Holly. In February, Adamski was sent to State Prison for a three-year term by Judge Samuel M. Shay following conviction on a gun-toting charge. Several weeks ago, Judge Shay issued a secret writ ordering his appearance in the local court at which time the sentence was suspended and Adamski was turned over to Burlington County authorities.

Ellis H. Parker, chief of the Burlington County detectives, said yesterday Adamski was being held on two robbery cases - one at the home of Circuit Court Judge V. Claude Palmer, Moorestown, and the second at the home of Kirkland Marter, Burlington. Parker declares Adamski was indicted on both robbery charges by the Burlington County grand jury last week. The indictments were among the 45 impounded by the court and not made public, Parker said.

Adamski was in the south wing of the jail, in a cell block known to inmates as "murderers' stir." Forty other prisoners were in the north wing of the jail. The warden's office separates the two wings, with the prisoners' exercise yard, surrounded by a 30-foot wall, in the rear.

At 11 p. m. Saturday Deputy Warden Atwood Wright and Lovando Pond, a special assistant only recently hired by Sheriff George N. Wimer, visited the south wing and "put the prisoner to bed."

That is the last seen of Adamski by jail officials.

At 7 a. m. yesterday, one of the two jail attaches - Wimer refuses to reveal which- went to Adamski's cell with his breakfast. His cell was empty: three bars had been neatly sawed away from the lone window, leaving a space 13 by 7 inches, hardly enough for anyone to squeeze through.

Helpful Saw Horse - Attached to one of the remaining bars was Adamski's bed clothing, knotted together and stretching to within a few feet of the ground, 20 feet below. While his fellow prisoners had been asleep - and the guards apparently busy elsewhere - Adamski had filed the bars, made his rope of bed clothing and fled. But even then he was not free.

He had to get out of the jail yard. A saw horse placed against the wall of the yard at the sheriff's house,

where Wimer has his offices and a deputy sheriff lives, showed where Adamski had made his final bid for freedom. The wall at this point is slightly lower than around the rest of the yard.

Prisoners Grilled - It is believed that "Eddie" climbed the wall, and then used the roof of an outhouse adjoining the rear of the sheriff's office, to reach the ground.

As soon as his disappearance was discovered, Parker, at his summer home in Brant Beach, was summoned, as were Sheriff Wimer and Prosecutor Howard Eastwood. All of the prisoners in the north wing were questioned, but little information was gathered from them. Eastwood then questioned both Wright and Pond. Deputy Warden Benjamin F. Farner, who was off duty and asleep in the sheriff's apartment, also was questioned.

No one could tell how Adamski came by the saws. His last visitor was his sister on Friday. A deputy warden stood by her side during the conversation and she was not allowed within arm's length of the prisoner. Only once in the last seven weeks has Adamski been allowed in the yard for exercise, and on that occasion two guards watched his every move. No explanation of the care in guarding the prisoner was advanced by Burlington authorities other than their claim that he was "a tough guy and very tricky."

Parker sent flyers to every police department in the east immediately following notification that his prisoner had escaped. His two secretaries, Mrs. Anna Bading and Mrs. Anna Lippincott, and Detectives Clifford Cain and Clinton Zeller, worked throughout the day on the case. State police under Corporal Jarvis Wood, of the Columbus barracks, also assisted in notifying other departments.

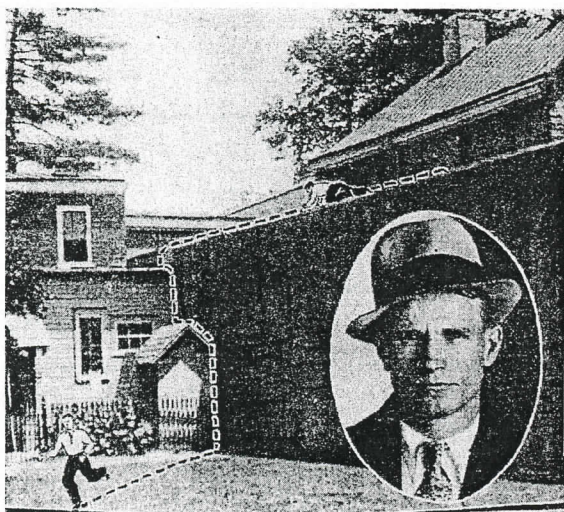
Gang's Lone Survivor - Adamski is the lone survivor of a gang of 12 men, known to Philadelphia police as the "Seventh and Parrish Streets Mob." His delicate sandpapered fingertips have opened a thousand safes without the aid of knowing the combination, police said. He has been arrested scores of times and spent much of his 28 years in jail.

His last arrest was when Camden Detectives Benjamin Simon and Edwin Mills led a raid on a Gloucester cafe, where Adamski and two others, suspects in the \$150,000 bond robbery of the George K. Bartle home in Philadelphia, were. Adamski pulled a pistol from his pocket and was about to "shoot his way out" when the weapon was knocked from his hands by Simon and Mills.

Parker Sends for Him - The two arrested with Adamski, Adam Szewezak and Solomon Lutz, were turned over to Philadelphia authorities. Szewezak was convicted in the bond job and is serving a 15 year term in Eastern Penitentiary. Lutz was sentenced to a year in Moyamensing for another robbery. Adamski was given three years in New Jersey state prison on the weapon charge by Judge Shay. After Adamski's imprisonment there, Parker learned of his connection with numerous Burlington county robberies and sought to have him brought to Mt. Holly to answer for these crimes.

Special Guard Denied - Parker said he had recovered part of the loot of the Palmer-Marter home on information he received from Adamski. He said he "had enough on him to send him a way for 15 years." Parker denied knowledge of a special guard over Adamski. Sheriff Wimer also denied the

guard. He said Pond had been hired recently "to fill in when the regular men went on their vacations". He has been "learning the ropes" at the jail in preparation for the other men's absence.



Here's how Eddie escaped: he filed the bars in his cell and climbed down a blanket rope. Then he scaled the wall and crawled along the top of the wall to the Warden's House. Then he jumped to the roof of the outhouse and then to the ground.

Did He Go Through Hole? - Authorities were puzzled how he got the saw. He filed through three bars, each an inch and three-quarters thick. Wimer believes the saw was concealed in his shoe when he was brought to prison. At Trenton this was denied. Prison officials there said they were certain nothing was concealed on his person when he was turned over to Burlington authorities. Parker, too, was skeptical about Adamski's escape through the hole in the window bars. "I can't see," Chief Parker said, "how any man could get through such a small hole. But Adamski must have done so because he's sure enough gone."

CAMDEN COURIER POST - JUNE 20, 1933

Sleuths Hinted 'Hot' On Trail of Adamski

Failure to Return From Hunt Taken as Sign of Clue - COPS OF 5 STATES HUNT JAILBREAKER

Burlington County detectives were believed hard on the heels of "Eddie" Adamski, escaped mystery prisoner, when they had failed to return to Mt. Holly at last, midnight after having hurriedly departed, 10 hours earlier.

Ordered to "shoot to kill" if and when they cornered the notorious safe cracker, the missing sleuths failed to report to their superiors during their absence.

Adamski is believed hiding near Camden, with one official expressing the opinion he was still in Burlington County, probably having taken refuge in one of the many empty mansions deserted for the summer by their owners.

Haunts Watched - Haunts of gangland's "Jimmy Valentine" were under scrutiny of police of five states last night as others kept watch at the border lines of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

Infamous for his deeds of opening other people's strong boxes with merely the deft touch of his long, lean fingers, Adamski, alias Harry Burns, was also known as a "bad actor" when cornered. Police believe he is armed and will attempt to shoot it out with anyone attempting his capture.

Adamski's mother and sister will be questioned today by Ellis H. Parker, chief of the Burlington county detectives, in the hope of obtaining a clue to the fugitive.

Seen Sawing Bars - Although unconfirmed, it was reported last night that police had learned where Adamski obtained the saw used in cutting three bars of his cell early Sunday at the Burlington county jail at Mt. Holly.

It also was reported that Adamski had been given a gun by the same party advancing the saw. Burlington county authorities, it was rumored, were informed several days ago by a woman inmate of the jail that Adamski was sawing the bars in his cell.

Sheriff George N. Wimer denied receiving such a report.

CAMDEN COURIER POST - JUNE 21, 1933
SLEUTHS BAFFLED IN ADAMSKI SEARCH
Tip After Tip Fails to Give Clue to Escaped Safecracker

Mt. Holly, June 20 - Police were at wits end today in their search for "Eddie" Adamski, notorious safecracker who escaped from the Burlington County jail here early Sunday.

Tip after tip fell by the wayside as harassed detectives scurried about the country in their quest for the elusive "Jimmy Valentine," as Adamski was known due to his sensitive fingers which he boasted could open any strong box.

The search centered yesterday in the district surrounding Haddon Township, Audubon, Haddon Heights and other nearby Camden county communities, following reports that a man answering Adamski's description attempted to "mooch" quarters and dimes from frightened housewives in those vicinities.

Several reports reached Ellis H. Parker, chief of the Burlington County detectives, about the whereabouts of his now famous "mystery prisoner", who escaped solitary confinement and a special guard with apparent ease, but proved untrue.

"I believe Adamski has put many miles between him and Mt. Holly," Parker said yesterday. "And if he is captured I don't believe it will be while he is alive. He is a tough customer and won't hesitate to shoot when cornered."

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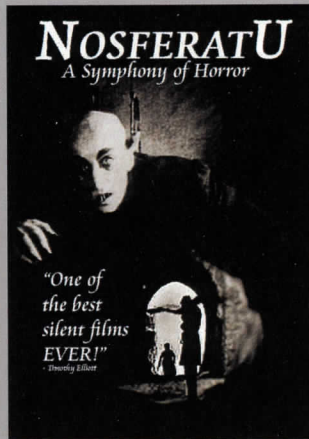
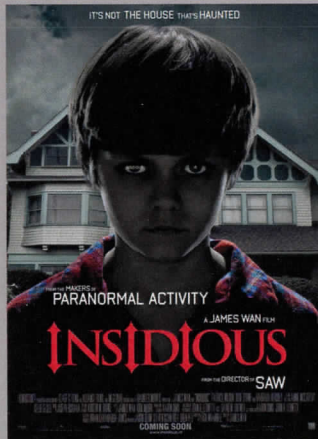
*ParkerMcCay attorneys

JULY 21th 8:30

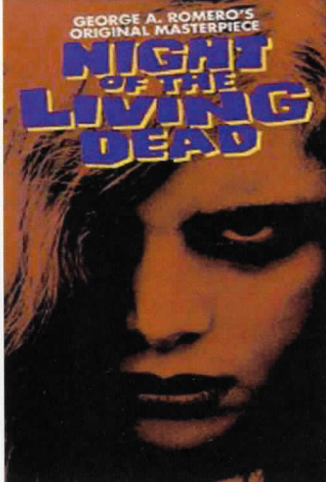
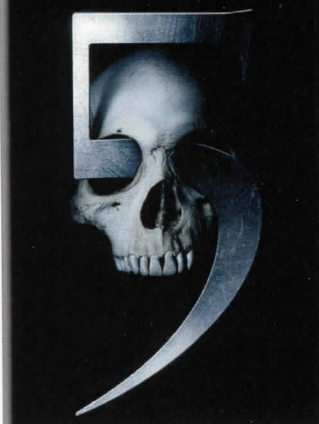
INSIDIOUS

AND

NOSFERATU



FINAL DESTINATION



AUG 11TH 8:30
FINAL
DESTINATION 5

AND

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD

No Rain Date

www.Facebook.com/HauntedPrison

A large movie poster for "Horror Movie Nights" at the Burlington County Prison Museum. It features a man in a blue uniform with a wide, menacing grin, holding a "128 High St. Mount Holly, N.J." sign. A hand is shown holding a "PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION" sign. Text includes "HORROR MOVIE NIGHTS", "AT THE BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM", "\$5.00 FOR BOTH MOVIES", "Join us behind our 200 year old prison walls for a series of outdoor horror movies", and "For features and show dates visit: www.prisonmuseum.net".

Popcorn, candy & drinks will be sold
Bring a chair/blanket - Ages 16 and up
www.PrisonMuseum.net

INVITATION

THE HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU

TO AN EVENING AT THE OLD JAIL

Friday, August 10, 2012, 7 p.m. (film at 8:30 p.m.)

NO RAIN DATE

HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM

128 High Street, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

Two very interesting films will be shown on the Prison Museum Association's new movie screen in the Exercise Yard in the rear in the Old Jail at sundown (approximately 8:30 pm) on August 10. Guests will be welcome to tour the Museum and the PMA office in the Warden's House starting at 7 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

First up will be *The Lonely Bones* (30 min.), a documentary by Kevin Walker, Esquire. Burlington County's Deputy Public Defender, Kevin is also both a PMA Member and an officer of the BCBA's Board of Trustees. The topic of this powerful film is Johnson Cemetery in Camden. The city's first African American cemetery, it is the final resting place of 300 former residents, including 120 members of the U.S. Colored Troops who fought for the Union Army in the Civil War. This well received film was accepted for showing at the Garden State Film Festival. It is not only a very interesting historic piece, but also serves as a springboard for conversation about a wide range of subjects, including preservation of cemeteries, local urban management and urban decay.

Next will be *The Secret of Freedom* (54 min.), a television drama written by Archibald MacLeish and first aired on NBC's *Breck Sunday Showcase* in February 1960. It tells the story of a civic minded couple (played by Tony Randall and Kim Hunter) who work to gain passage of a tax referendum to improve their town's schools. While the topic is admittedly not that interesting, what *is* interesting is that it was filmed completely in Mount Holly, and provides several shots of various sites along High Street, including the Old Courthouse and the Library.

PLEASE RSVP TO pma1811@verizon.net or leave a message at 609-518-7667.

We will have folding chairs but guests are free to bring a lawn chair.