

The Fifth Hanging in Centre County.

Green and Dillen Pay the Penalty of Taking Condo's Life by Giving their Own.

Only 6 Minutes elapsed from the time the Prisoners left their Cells until the Drop Fell.

Both of the Men were Cool and Faced their Awful Fate with Remarkable Nerve. They Spoke from the Scaffold but Talked of Nothing Bearing on the Crime.

A GREAT CROWD IN BELLEFONTE.

"All Ready, Let 'er Go!" The last words on earth of Ira Green had barely escaped his lips when sheriff H. S. Taylor pulled the lever which sprung the trap and he and William Dillen were dashed into eternity, Tuesday morning, thus paying the penalty of their crime for the killing of Jerry I. Condo, the turn-key in the Centre county jail, on the evening of July 29th last.

It was just 10:42 o'clock when sheriff Taylor, accompanied by deputy sheriff Harry J. Jackson, Harry Carlisle, of DuBois, and detective Miles Swartzel entered the jail proper to bring the prisoners out. They proceeded to the cells of Green and Dillen and there in the presence of their spiritual advisers, Revs. W. B. Cox and A. Davidson, the guards and several others read to them for the last time the death warrant and announced to them that the time for their execution had come. Though their faces blanched and both exhibited unmistakable signs of nervousness they did not quail when their arms were pinioned behind their backs.

When all was ready and the march to the scaffold began the male quartette sang one stanza of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." First in the procession to the scaffold was Dillen supported on either side by his spiritual adviser, Rev. Cox and sheriff Taylor. Green came next supported by Rev. Davidson and deputy sheriff Jackson while the other deputies, guards and newspaper men brought up the rear. The two prisoners walked with a comparatively firm step and could have ascended the thirteen steps to the gallows unassisted. It was just 10:48 o'clock when the march from the doomed men's cells began and it was just two minutes later when they mounted the scaffold.

Immediately upon reaching the scaffold Rev. Cox announced that the condemned

God, this afternoon!" and just when the black cap was about being placed on their heads both muttered, "God have mercy on my poor soul!" After the black cap was put on Dillen called "Good-bye all," and Green cried out "Good-bye, boys." Everything being adjusted sheriff Taylor took hold of the lever and speaking to his deputies asked, "All ready, boys?" Green evidently thought he was speaking to them for he answered "All ready, let 'er go," and his last words were still vibrating on the air when the lever was pulled and the men dropped with a dull thud that was heard outside the massive walls of the jail yard. The drop fell at exactly 10:54.

The only signs of life after the fall were a few convulsive tremors of Green's body. In just twelve minutes from the springing of the trap Green was pronounced dead and in nineteen minutes the doctors declared life extinct in Dillen's body. Both bodies were cut down at 11:20. They were immediately taken in charge by undertaker Hard P. Harris who prepared the remains for burial and placed them in caskets furnished by the county. After the bodies were placed in the coffins they were viewed by the physicians and jurists and pronounced legally dead. The physicians and jurists selected for each were as follows:

For Dillen the jury was W. M. Cronister, P. J. McDonell, I. J. Drees, Chas. Eckenroth, L. C. Bullock, J. W. Sunday, Oliver Witmer, Sam'l Weiser, Henr Hale, W. R. Haynes, S. H. Benson, F. P. Musser. Dillen's physician was Dr. J. L. Seibert.

Green's jury was as follows: Frank Hess, James Krebs, Burdine Butler, J. P. Sebring, H. F. McManaway, E. G. Jones, John I. Curtin, Dan'l Gordon, Jno. Decker, Jas. Schofield, Daniel Keller. Green's physician was Dr. E. G. H. Hayes.



IRA GREEN.

WILLIAM DILLEN.

Ira Green and William Dillen, from Photographs taken on Sunday April 30th, 1935.



Ira Green, from a photograph taken the day after his recapture.

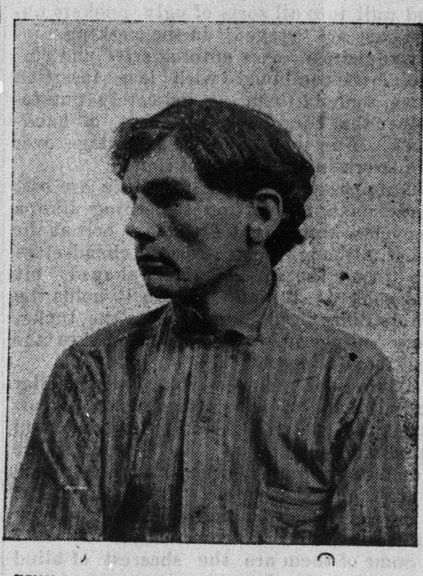
not yet complete the execution was delayed almost an hour. The ministers and choristers remained with the prisoners and cheered them up with prayer and song.

In the meantime the lower part of the jail was a scene of bustle and suppressed excitement. Early in the morning people began to arrive in Bellefonte and by the time all the trains were in several thousand strangers were in town. Before 9 o'clock one solid mass of humanity was massed around the door on the south side of the jail residence, all clamoring for admission. Sheriff Taylor foreseeing this contingency had sworn in the following deputies: Cyrus Brungart, Robert Cooke, Philip Garbrick, Lemuel Poorman, Wm. Rider, Samuel Morrison, Harry Austin, George Everhart, R. E. Montgomery and Harry Schreffler. It was 9:45 when the door was opened and the public admitted and from that time until 10:30 there was one continual stream of humanity flowing through the office out into the jail yard, so that the crowd present is conservatively estimated at 750 people.

At 10:30 sheriff Taylor ordered the doors closed and locked and calling the men selected on the two juries took them out near the scaffold, swore them in and stationed them in front of the crowd. He then returned and with his deputies started in the jail for the prisoners at exactly 10:48 o'clock, as described above.

STORY OF THE CRIME.

When the crime for which the two men expired upon the gallows was committed Ira Green and William Dillen were inmates of the Centre county jail, Green awaiting trial on the charge of stealing a watch and Dillen on the charge of rape. The former at the most, if convicted, would have gotten only a few months in jail while the latter might have been sent to the penitentiary for a couple years. Both Green and Dillen were regarded as daring and dangerous characters and some time previous to their escape an inkling of the fact that they intended attempting to break jail having reached sheriff Taylor he had the two men locked up together in a steel cell while two other men, George Henderson, in jail for larceny, and Dominic Constance, awaiting trial for arson, were locked in another



William Dillen, from a photograph taken the day after his recapture.

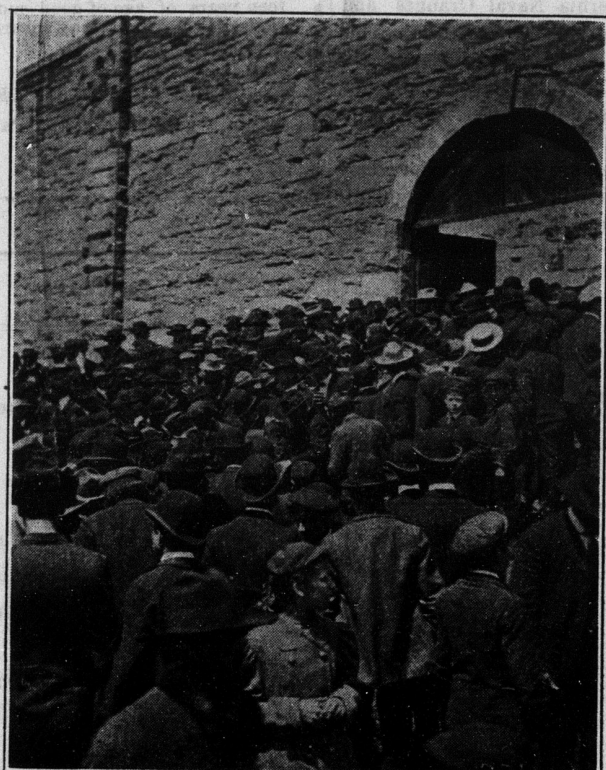
sheriff's home-hold attended a picnic at Hecla park that day. Between Green, Dillen, Henderson, Constance and one George Livingston, a daring jail delivery was planned for that night.

About 8 o'clock Mr. Condo as usual went into the corridors to lock the prisoners in their cells, and in passing No. 8, on the upper tier of cells, he noticed that the

They were sitting on the side of the bath tub for a half hour, and during this time Dillen took off his heavy shoes so as not to make any noise. Presently McCullough and Condo entered the large prison door that goes from the dwelling part of the jail to the corridors. They went straight to the stairway which is in about the centre of the lower corridor. McCullough was in the lead and after Condo had locked the door and put the large iron key in his pocket he proceeded to the stairway. When McCullough was almost on the second landing and Condo was on the second step, Green and Dillen came out of the bath room and struck Condo on the back of the head. Dillen, according to his testimony on the witness stand, struck the first blow with his fist. Green then hit him a number of times with the iron in the stocking. They pounded him over the head and body until helpless and then Green reached into his pockets, secured the keys and threw them to Livingston who was on the second floor, and who left the rest of the prisoners out of their cells. McCullough fearing that his life was in danger, rushed to his cell and hid. Green then opened the big iron door leading into the hall of the dwelling part of the jail when the prisoners all passed through and out the front door leading to the big, wide world. They left Condo unconscious and the blood flowing from his wounds. Livingston picked up both irons and when outside threw them along the jail wall on the north side of the prison. When they reached the rear of the jail Mrs. James Ott and her daughter Sarah, heard them say that they must all separate or they would be caught. They were also seen and heard by Mrs. Thomas Faxon and other residents further out on the street. They then cut across into Arvon's Gap and over the mountain into Bald Eagle with the exception of Constance, who struck out for Buffalo Run valley. After they had made their escape McCullough gave the alarm over the telephone and then he and George Kline, another prisoner, carried Condo into the kitchen. Dr. W. W. Feidt was quickly summoned, who found seven or eight open wounds. The skull was fractured and it was soon discovered he could not live. Drs. Seibert and Hayes also attended him. Mr. Condo lingered until Sunday morning, July 21st, when he passed away. His funeral took place the following Wednesday at Spring Mills, and was the largest that ever took place in that valley.

THE RE-CAPTURE.

Hardly had the prisoners escaped from jail when the alarm was given and hundreds flocked to the castle on the hill. Armed posses were at once organized and sent out but no trace of their trail could be discovered. For two days there were various reports of their having been seen in different places but on tracing each report to its source it was found to be groundless. On Sunday, however, there was definite word that they had been seen in the foothills of the Alleghenies, in Curtin township. A posse was at once sent in pursuit and the men were chased back and forth until Tuesday afternoon when they were driven into the swamp close to Flemington, between Mill Hill and Lock Haven. There their capture was effected by Mr. O. E. Harvey and several others on Tuesday afternoon, August 2nd. On that afternoon Harvey went to the farm of his son-in-law, J. B. Stiver, near that place to



LEAVING THE JAIL YARD AFTER THE EXECUTION.

men had a word to say. Dillen made one step forward and in a voice so low he could not be heard twenty feet away said: "I believe the Lord has saved me and I am forgiven. I am prepared to meet my God and know that Jesus saves. I expect to take dinner with my dear mother in Heaven. There is a report going around that we killed Livingston, but it is not true." At one time during this brief speech Dillen almost collapsed. He clutched his hands, his mouth twitched and he swayed backwards so that it was necessary to take hold of him; but in an instant he recovered himself, finished his talk and stepped back on the fatal trap door. Green was given an opportunity to speak but shook his head in the negative. Rev. Cox then offered a brief and fervent prayer, commending the prisoners to the mercy of an all-wise Providence after which both men kissed their spiritual advisers good-bye and the ministers left the platform.

Sheriff Taylor, deputy sheriff Jackson and ex-sheriff Robert Cooke at once began adjusting the straps and while they were thus engaged Green reached up and pulled down the rope, closely examined it, worked the slip-knot back and forth then tossed it up on the beam while he called out in a firm voice, "Now gentlemen, take warning by this and don't do the same." When the nooses were being slipped over the heads of both Dillen showed visible signs of a collapse and asked for a drink of water. This necessitated a wait of perhaps a minute and a half until a glass of water was brought and both men given a drink. When the officials again began to adjust the nooses Green was heard to say "Not too tight," and almost immediately after cried out, "Have mercy upon us, oh my

Dillen's remains were later given in charge of his brother, Lee Dillen, who took them, on the 1.05 p. m. train to Ansonville, Clearfield county, the home of their childhood for burial.

The remains of Green were taken away by undertaker F. L. Wetzler, of Milesburg, who conveyed them to the home of the unfortunate young man's parents, near Gum Stump, on Wallace run. It had been the intention to inter the remains in the cemetery at Roland but the authorities objected and burial was made on a little plot of ground on Wallace run, near the Green home, the funeral being held yesterday morning.

THEIR LAST DAY AND NIGHT.

From the time that visitors were excluded from the jail, Wednesday of last week, both Green and Dillen appeared to become more or less silent and thoughtful, owing no doubt to the fact that they had more time to themselves without the distraction of strangers coming and going. The usual religious services were held Sunday afternoon, in which both men joined heartily. Monday was a day of more or less suspense to them, owing to the fact that they knew that a last appeal for a respite was pending and they had yet a hope that something would intervene to spare their lives, at least for a time. But when they were informed that Judge Anten had refused to appoint a commission in January they knew that they must die. The young wife of Ira Green, who made her last visit to her husband on the 29th of April, did not come back again as her friends were afraid the strain would be more than she could bear. Dillen's two brothers and his sister took their final farewell of him last Saturday and Monday, all returning to their



THE MARCH TO THE GALLOWES.

This picture was taken just at the time the procession turned the corner of the jail and the doomed men faced the gallows in reality. Leading are Sheriff Taylor, Dillen, and Rev. W. B. Cox. Immediately following them are Rev. Davidson, Green and Deputy Jackson, in the order named.

shaved and requesting a hair cut were given that, too. At 8:30 the suite of black furnished by the county were given the men and they both dressed themselves, taking unusual pains to look as neat as possible. Shortly afterwards Dillen's brother Lee and his wife and Green's father, his sister and little brother went up for a final farewell, but the heartrending sorrow of the occasion was far too great for us to attempt to tear aside the veil of grief and depict it for our readers. Both men bore up bravely under the terrible ordeal.

At 9 o'clock Revs. Cox and Davidson and C. C. Shney and Collins Johnston were admitted and held the last religious services for the condemned men. At exactly 10 o'clock the men, through Rev. Cox, went word to sheriff Taylor that they were ready but as arrangements downstairs were

steel cell. Jeremiah Condo, of Spring Mills, was the turnkey and on two occasions he reported that Green and Dillen had stolen the steel knives given to them at meal time. Both times their cells were searched and the knives recovered.

Among the prisoners was one Edward McCullough, who was in jail for trespassing. He was known as a "trusty," and assisted the turnkey in doing chores about the jail and locking up the prisoners at night. The prisoners kept themselves informed as to the movements of the sheriff and the other officials of the jail and in some way learned that on Friday evening, July 29th, the jail would be practically deserted, save for the presence of the turnkey. Sheriff Taylor was away at camp, deputy Harry Jackson went off duty at 5 o'clock and the other members of the



INSIDE THE JAIL YARD—WAITING FOR THE EXECUTION.

This picture was taken from the scaffold just five minutes before the prisoners were brought out a doorway in the north court of the yard corresponding to the one in the south court, which is seen at the back of this picture.

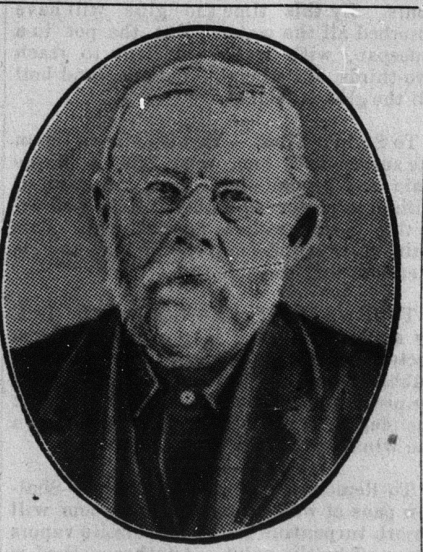
upper hinge had been sawed off and the door partly bent in at the top. He said nothing but left the corridor and went to the office where McCullough was sitting and told him that there was something wrong on the inside. Condo went and got two sets of heavy iron hobbles and asked McCullough to follow, stating that the door on cell No. 8 looked as though it was sprung and he was going to bind the two doors together with the hobbles so as to prevent any trouble. It was about one hour from the time Condo saw the cell door sprung until he went back again. In the meantime Green and Dillen pulled the upper part of the cell door back and propped it with a stick, crawled out over. They were now in the corridor on the second floor of the jail, and going down to the first floor they secreted themselves in the bath room, which is located in the corner to the right going in. While still in their cells they wrenched from the iron bedstead two irons or braces. One of them was a straight piece of iron about 18 inches long put in an old cotton stocking, and the other was a "T" shaped iron about 12 inches long. It was with these two weapons that the awful deed was committed.

ask him something about the prisoners. His little grandson told him that the prisoners were down on the flat, in what is known as Halemans' swamp. He went down and found that the little fellow's story was true. By this time Stiver and a Mr. Flinigan appeared on the scene with their guns when Mr. Harvey went to where Green, Dillen and Henderson were sitting and after talking to them awhile placed them under arrest and Harvey, Stiver and Flinigan took them to Lock Haven and placed them in charge of sheriff Shearer. Half an hour after they were placed in jail Joseph Rightmeyer with a party of five men consisting of Phil Garbrick, Roger T. Bayard, Dick Taylor, William Brown and James Morrison, went to the jail in Lock Haven and identified them. They were then brought to Bellefonte over the Central Railroad of Pennsylvania and placed in jail. An immense crowd surrounded the prison but no act of violence was committed. They never heard of Livingston and probably never will. The \$1,000 reward offered by the County Commissioners has not yet been paid, as the court has not decided who is entitled to receive it. Dominic Constance, the Italian who escaped at the same time, was re-captured on the Bald Eagle mountain two weeks afterwards.

THE TRIAL AND THEIR FIGHT FOR LIFE.

Possibly never before in the history of the county was so desperate an effort made to save men from the consequences of their crime as was made in this case. Some time after the capture of the men Judge Love appointed H. C. Quigley as counsel to defend them. Later the friends of Green employed Clement Dale as special counsel for him while Dillen's brothers employed ex-Judge A. O. Furst. The Commonwealth was represented by district attorney N. B. Spangler, E. R. Chambers and Ellis L. Orvis. The first effort on the part of counsel was to have the trial postponed until the November term of court, but in this they failed, even after an appeal to Judge Dean, of the Supreme court, which was refused.

The case was called for trial Thursday afternoon, August 25th, and the jury retired Saturday afternoon, at 2:45 o'clock, and were out until 9:25 o'clock Sunday morning, when they returned a verdict of murder in the first degree. An application



JERRY CONDO, THE VICTIM.