

March 20, 1973

## (Start of Belt #7)

When time came for him to stand trial, he ran like a rabbit, squealed like a pig, but he was brought to justice and executed. Now, this man was considered by a lot of people the worse criminal whoever lived or, at least, among the worst. But even in a situation like this where he was to be hanged by the neck until dead, they did not have any one executioner who would have to take the responsibility. There were three individuals, each of whom has a little lever. None of them knowing which one would trip the trap door which would result in the man hanging. Still that moral ambivalent, that unwillingness to place the responsibility of a deliberate state carried-out killing on his conscience alone. In Utah where you can choose to be hanged or shot, when the shooting occurs, they take five new rifles, four of them loaded, one of them empty. Again, the moral uncertainty ambivalent and unwillingness for any man to assume the responsibility, from drawing lots they select five citizens. They take them to a gun port with places for the five rifles. Across is a wall and a chair. The chair is bolted to the ground so that the individual, if the killing does not occur immediately, will not squirm around and make the chair rock like it sometimes does in the electric chair. A doctor very systematically and professionally takes a stethoscope and finds the location of the persons heart, places a heart like piece of paper over it. They tie the individual in the chair. Blindfold him or her. Then they give the signal and all of these shooters are suppose to aim at the piece of paper. Generally, four bullets are found in a tight pattern in the heart. There was one time when a sheriff's son was convicted of murder and had to be shot in this fashion and all five of them not wanting to be guilty, shot to the opposite side and four bullets were found in the right side of his chest and he died from bleeding to death. When it comes to the electric chair, I already mentioned to you that the warden doesn't have to do it nor does any state official. They can designate anybody they can hire to do it. When they drop the cyanide pellets in California, they hire an individual and no officer of the state does it. I'd like to read to you what happens in the case of an electrocution and then I will be through. This particular situation applies in all cases where death by electrocution occurs. The technical process of electrocution can be understood by even the uninitiated layman. The current passes from an electrode attached to the head through the body to a second attached to the leg. An initial shock of a single phase of 60 cycle alternating current at an average starting potential of 2000 volts for 57 seconds is administered. A second shock of the same voltage then follows completing the execution within a two minute period. Death is supposedly instantaneous with the first introduction of the current through paralysis and destruction of the brain. The average bodily temperature rises to 140° Fahrenheit during the execution which is a lethal agent in itself and accounts for the pronounced redness noted in executions. There was an execution described by means of a photograph. The case involved two lovers who had killed the woman's husband, Then they were caught, sentenced to die in Sing Sing prison and there was a reporter who wanted to record what happened for posterity, so although no cameras were allowed, he smuggled one in and attached it to his leg. He raised his pant leg and at the moment of this woman's execution, he took the picture and here's what happened. Reporter Gregg's timing was perfect. The picture that splashed across front pages from coast to coast showed the once beautiful woman hair white and eyes sunken by the rigors of her ordeal with her legs straining back against the leg bar, her arms wrenched stiff against the straps and with the smoke spiraling up from the electrode. An aroused public resentful because it had been reminded that such unpleasantness existed