

# TEXAS PRISON SYSTEM

D. W. STAKES, GENERAL MANAGER

30336

## TEXAS PRISON BOARD

M. RILEY WYATT, CHAIRMAN, . . . SAN ANTONIO  
J. E. WHEAT, VICE CHAIRMAN, . . . WOODVILLE  
CLAUDE K. MCCAN, SECRETARY, . . . VICTORIA



BARNEY L. HARRISON . . . . . GREENVILLE  
R. J. EDWARDS . . . . . DENTON  
J. W. KEELAND . . . . . HOUSTON  
L. T. MURRAY . . . . . WACO

DEPARTMENT OF PRINTING  
S. E. BARNETT, SUPERINTENDENT  
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS

IN ANSWERING THIS COMMUNICATION,  
PLEASE ADDRESS THIS DEPARTMENT

February 28, 1945

Mr. J. G. Taylor Spink,  
The Sporting News  
St. Louis 1, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Spink:

For your information, John F. Box, who served as inmate editor of the Prison Echo here for a few months last year, made his escape from the Retrieve prison farm yesterday afternoon.

Escaping with Box were Tom N. Norris, once called Public Enemy No. 1 of Texas and the most wanted man in the country, and two other prisoners with lesser reputations in criminal activities.

They were unloading meat from a refrigerator truck when they forced the guards (with knives) into a building and locked them in. They changed clothes with the Steward, the driver of the truck and another employee, stole the truck, kidnapped the driver and took off toward Houston. The truck was found about an hour later abandoned on the highway.

My purpose in giving you this information is that Box is unpredictable. He has such an abundance of ego and is so sure of himself that if he makes St. Louis, he might even contact you. Of course he would use a cock and bull story that he had been pardoned. In event he tries something like this you will know what to do.

With my sincere best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

*S. E. Barnett*  
S. E. Barnett, Superintendent  
Department of Printing