Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file

Section 18, Pages 511 - 540

The Kansas State Penitentiary case file on Richard Hickock, inmate number 14746. Hickock and his accomplice, Perry Smith, were convicted of first degree murder for the brutal 1959 killings of Herb and Bonnie Clutter, their daughter, Nancy, and son, Kenyon, in Holcomb, Kansas. The murders inspired the non-fiction novel "In Cold Blood" by Truman Capote. Hickock was executed by hanging on April 14, 1965. Please note that some images have been removed in accordance with K.S.A. 45-221(a)(29) and have been labeled with pages indicating their removal. Additional redactions of personally identifiable information made in accordance with K. S. A. 2005 Supp. 45-221(a)(30).

Creator: Kansas State Penitentiary

Date: 1959 - 1965

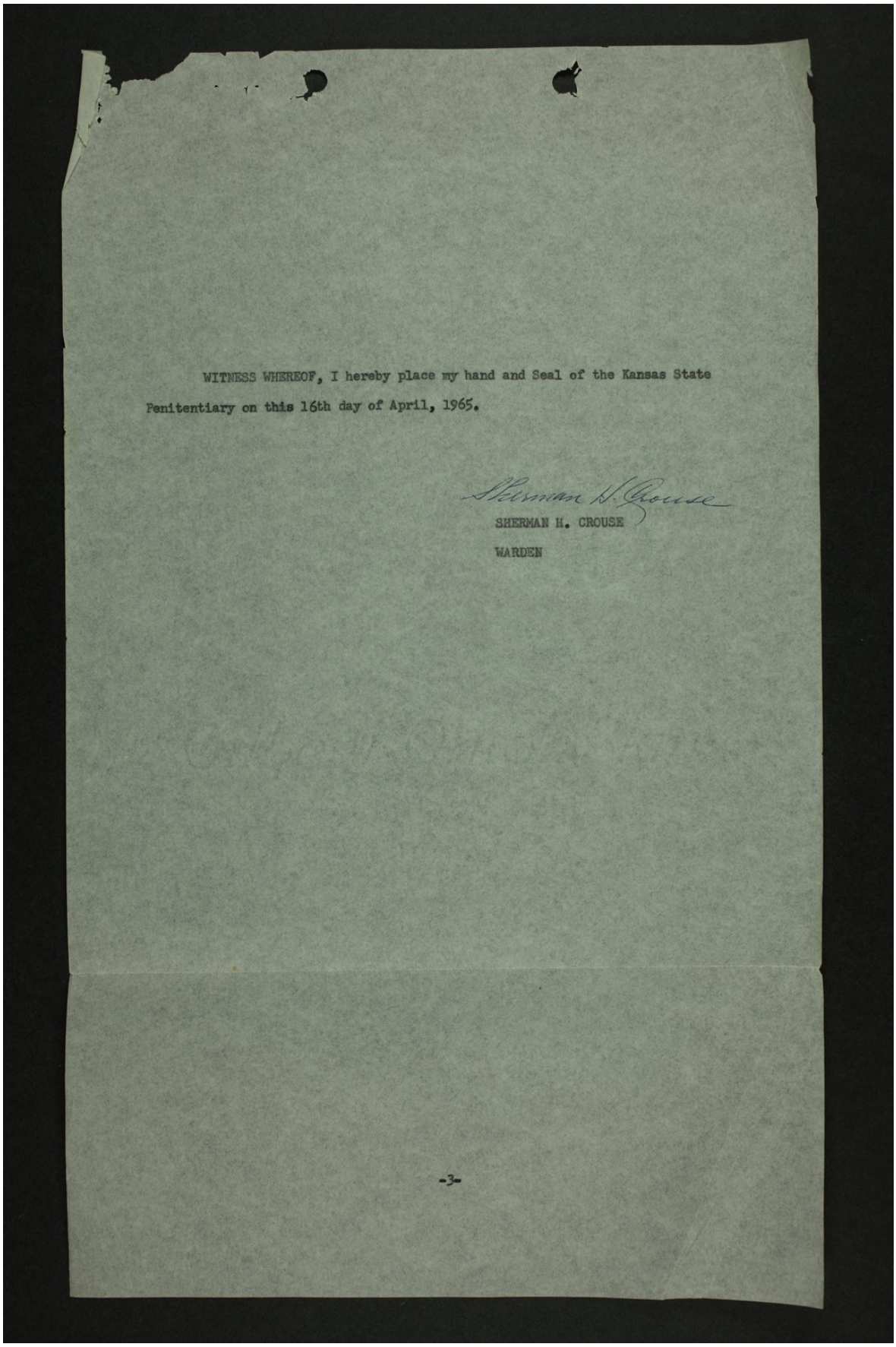
Callnumber: State Penitentiary, Inmate Files, Executed Prisoners, Box 2

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 208963

Item Identifier: 208963

www.kansasmemory.org/item/208963

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby place my hand and Seal of the Kansas State Penitentiary on this 16th day of April, 1965.

Sherman H. Crouse

SHERMAN H. CROUSE

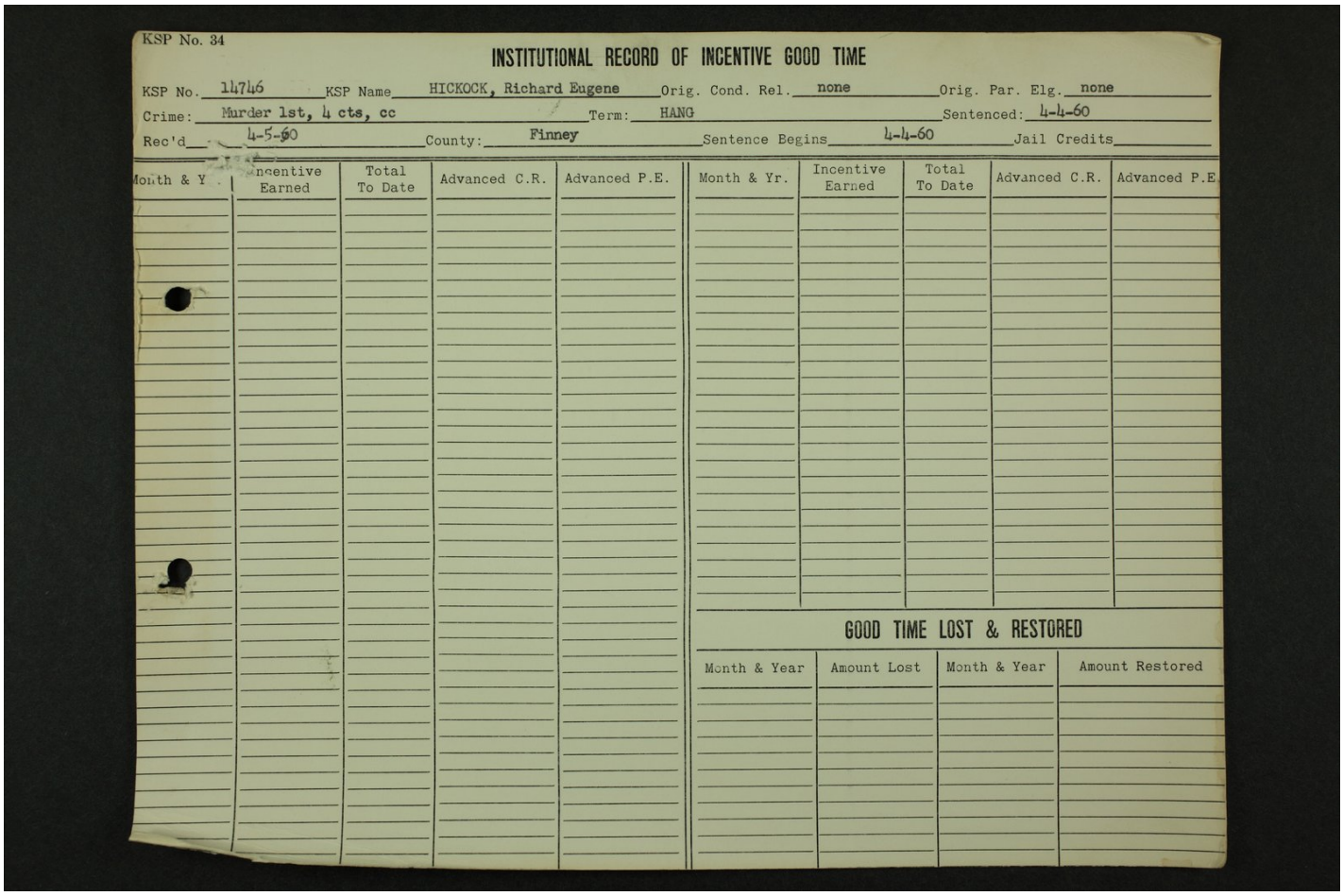
WARDEN

-3-

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



KSP No. 34

INSTITUTIONAL RECORD OF INCENTIVE GOOD TIME

KSP No. 14746 KSP Name HICKOCK, Richard Eugene Orig. Cond. Rel. none Orig. Par. Elg. none

Crime: Murder 1st, 4 cts, cc Term: HANG Sentenced: 4-4-60

Rec'd 4-5-60 County: Finney Sentence Begins 4-4-60 Jail Credits

Month & Y	Incentive Earned	Total To Date	Advanced C.R.	Advanced P.E.	Month & Yr.	Incentive Earned	Total To Date	Advanced C.R.	Advanced P.E.

GOOD TIME LOST & RESTORED

Month & Year	Amount Lost	Month & Year	Amount Restored

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file

KSP No. 249

CENTRAL FILE
JACKET INDEX

LEFT SIDE:		RIGHT SIDE:
FBI Record	JACKET FACE CARD	Fingerprint Card
Medical Report		Envelope containing photos, fingerprint negative, personal property
Interview Sheet		Court Committment
Relative and Correspondent List		New Charges (if any)
Classification Summary		Detainers (if any) and all allied material
Inquiry Reports (Other Institutions)		Escape Record (if any)
Parole and Executive Clemency Briefs Paroles, Parole Officer's Reports Parolees' Reports, Delinquency Declarations, Warden's Warrant Extradition Proceedings, Form 9's Miscellaneous Letters, etc. (Filed in chronological order.)		Commutation of Sentence (if any)
		Conduct Record
		Work Assignment Record
		Disciplinary Reports and Action
Chouteau Store Purchases		Custody Status

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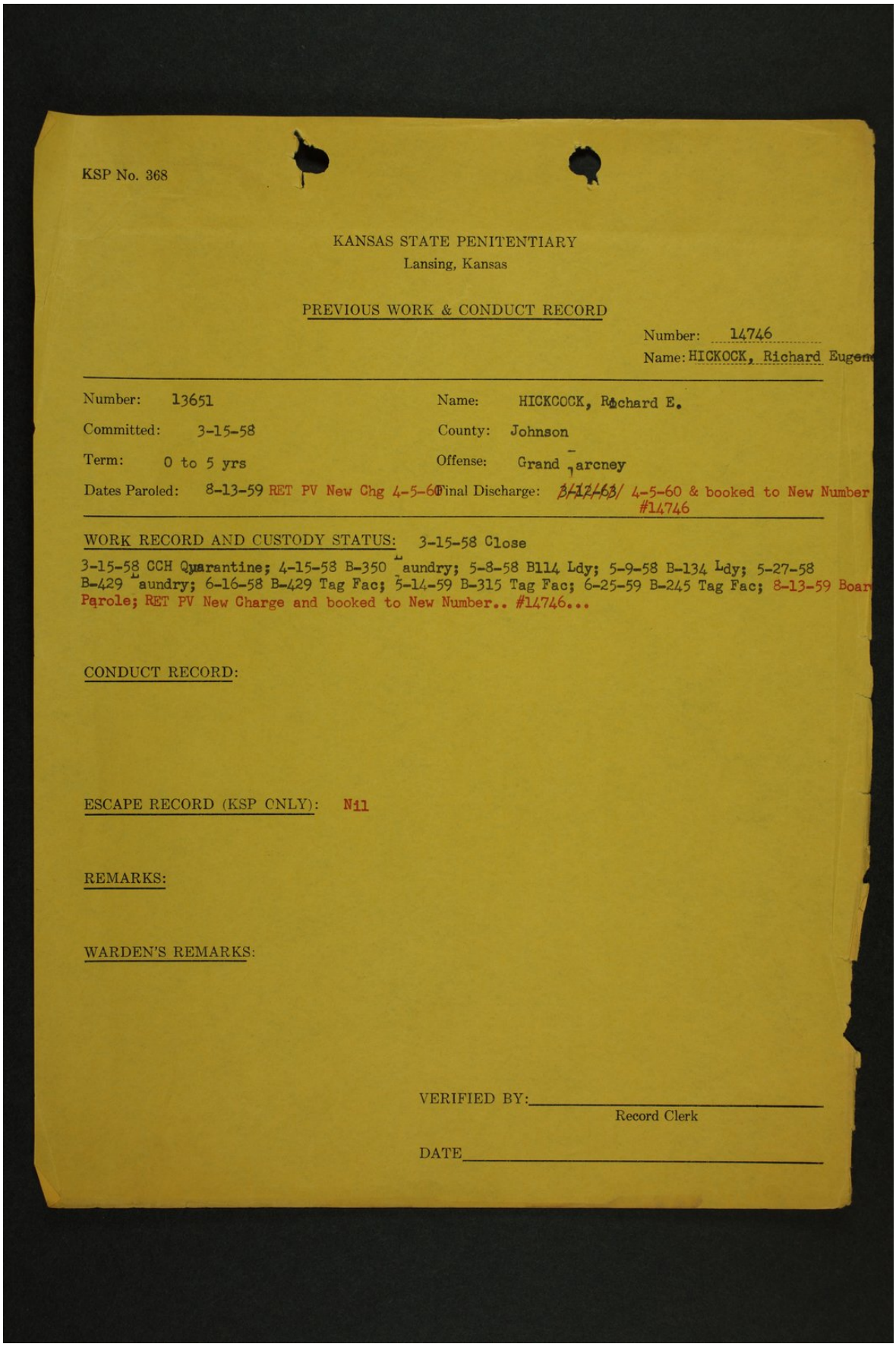
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Jackets must not be kept out of the Record Office overnight and should be returned to the Central File at least one-half hour before the close of business each day.

Material routed to the Central File for filing purposes should be plainly marked in the upper right-hand corner, giving Inmates name and Register Number.

ALL MATERIAL IN THIS JACKET IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



KSP No. 368

KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY
Lansing, Kansas

PREVIOUS WORK & CONDUCT RECORD

Number: 14746
Name: HICKOCK, Richard Eugen

Number: 13651 Name: HICKCOCK, Richard E.

Committed: 3-15-58 County: Johnson

Term: 0 to 5 yrs Offense: Grand Larceny

Dates Paroled: 8-13-59 RET PV New Chg 4-5-60 Final Discharge: ~~3-12-63~~/ 4-5-60 & booked to New Number #14746

WORK RECORD AND CUSTODY STATUS: 3-15-58 Close

3-15-58 CCH Quarantine; 4-15-58 B-350 Laundry; 5-8-58 B114 Ldy; 5-9-58 B-134 Ldy; 5-27-58 B-429 Laundry; 6-16-58 B-429 Tag Fac; 5-14-59 B-315 Tag Fac; 6-25-59 B-245 Tag Fac; 8-13-59 Board Parole; RET PV New Charge and booked to New Number.. #14746...

CONDUCT RECORD:

ESCAPE RECORD (KSP ONLY): Nil

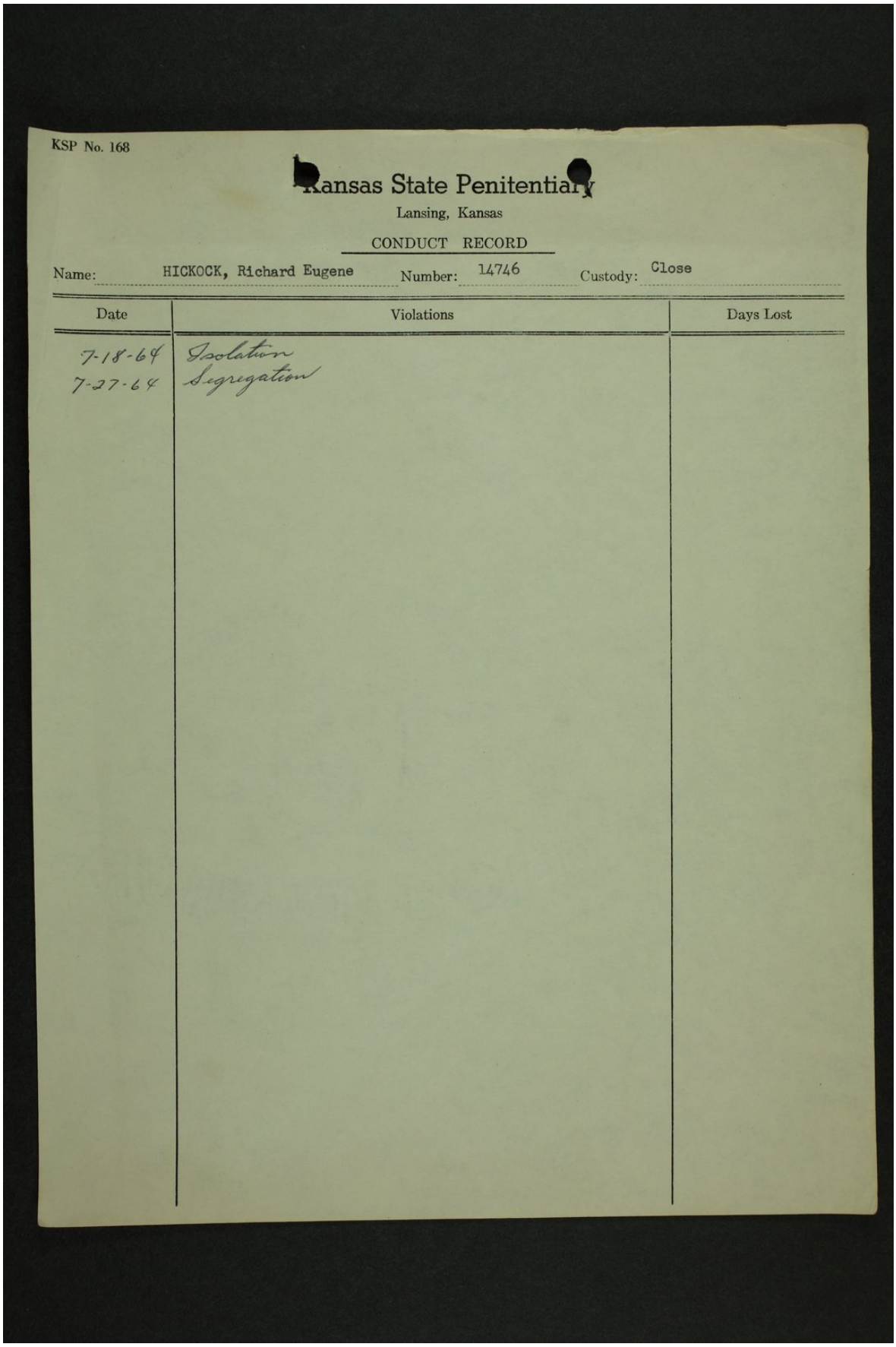
REMARKS:

WARDEN'S REMARKS:

VERIFIED BY: _____
Record Clerk

DATE _____

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



KSP No. 168

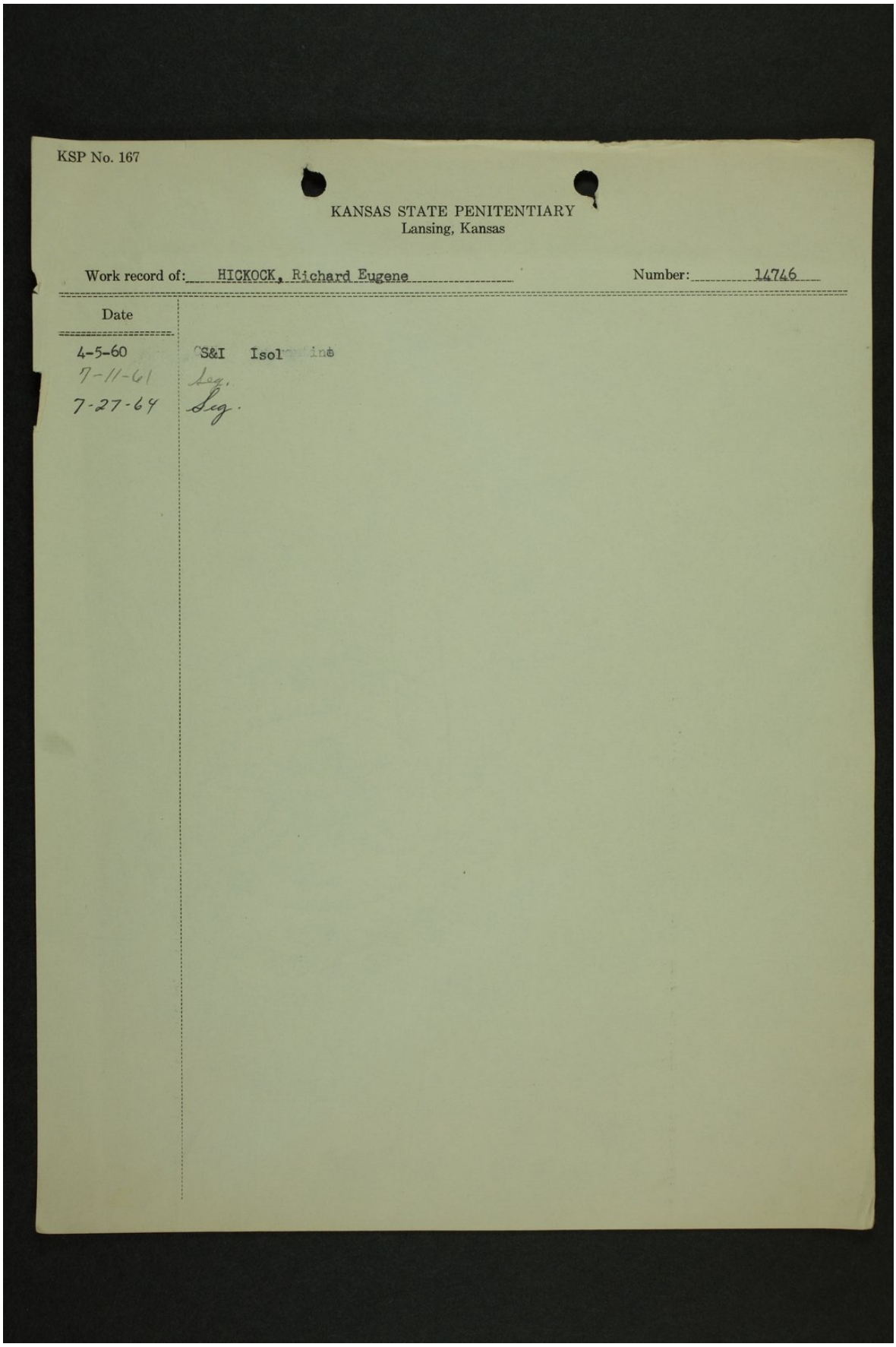
Kansas State Penitentiary
Lansing, Kansas

CONDUCT RECORD

Name: HICKOCK, Richard Eugene Number: 14746 Custody: Close

Date	Violations	Days Lost
7-18-64	Isolation	
7-27-64	Segregation	

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



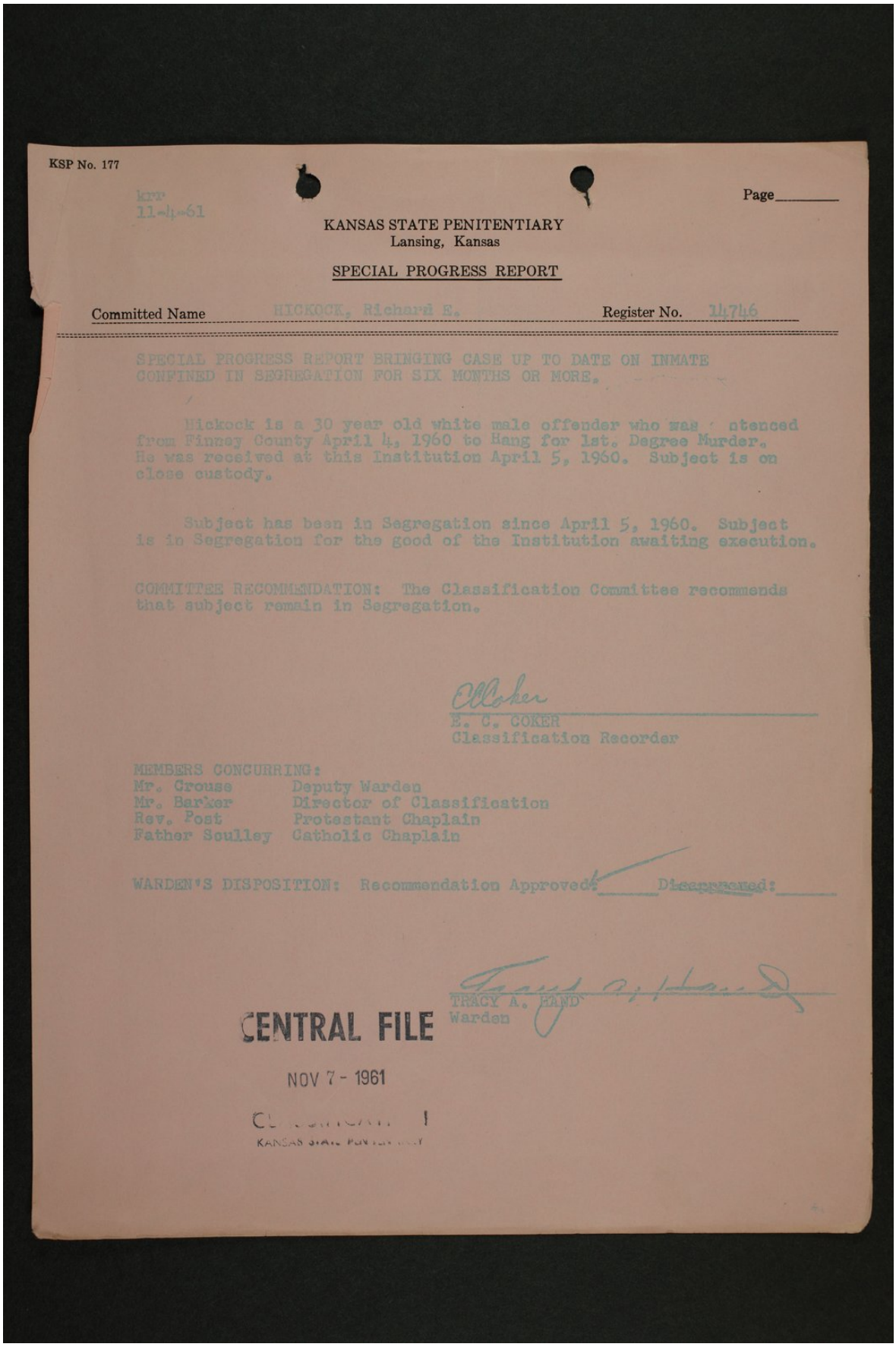
KSP No. 167

KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY
Lansing, Kansas

Work record of: HICKOCK, Richard Eugene Number: 14746

Date	
4-5-60	S&I Isol[illegible]ine
7-11-61	Seg.
7-27-64	Seg.

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



KSP No. 177

krr
11-4-61

Page_____

KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY
Lansing, Kansas

SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name HICKOCK, Richard E. Register No. 14746

SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT BRINGING CASE UP TO DATE ON INMATE CONFINED IN SEGREGATION FOR SIX MONTHS OR MORE.

Hickock is a 30 year old white male offender who was ntenced from Finney County April 4, 1960 to Hang for 1st. Degree Murder. He was received at this Institution April 5, 1960. Subject is on close custody.

Subject has been in Segregation since April 5, 1960. Subject is in Segregation for the good of the Institution awaiting execution.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Classification Committee recommends that subject remain in Segregation.

E. C. COKER
Classification Recorder

MEMBERS CONCURRING:
Mr. Crouse Deputy Warden
Mr. Barker Director of Classification
Rev. Post Protestant Chaplain
Father Sculley Catholic Chaplain

WARDEN'S DISPOSITION: Recommendation Approved ✓ Disapproved:_____

TRACY A. HAND
Warden

CENTRAL FILE
NOV 7 - 1961
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file

KSP No. 290

Trusty Prisoner's Agreement

Name: HICKOCK, Richard Eugene Number: 14746 Color: white

Crime: Murder 1st Degree 4 Cts Conc

Term: Hang Date of Sentence: 4-4-60

Date Received: 4-5-60 County: Finney

Parole Eligibility: Conditional Release Date:

Occupation: CL Age: 28 Nativity: Kansas City, Kansas

Escape Record:

I hereby apply for promotion to a trusty position in the work of the Kansas State Prison, meaning a position outside the main walls of the institution assigned to the farm, or any other details.

I hereby promise to perform the duties faithfully and well to which I am assigned, to obey the officers under whom I work and faithfully observe and keep the rules and disciplinary regulations of this institution.

I authorize and request the Warden to penalize me all my good-time accumulated to date if I escape or attempt to escape, from the jurisdiction of the prison, or for any other major violation of rules, such as making intoxicating liquor, getting drunk, gambling, assult upon an officer, stealing, or similar offenses.

I also make this agreement knowing that if I become an escapee from this institution I am subject to trial and conviction as a fugitive, for which the legal inprisonment is from two to twenty years imprisonment as a second time loser under the Habitual Criminal Law.

This agreement is made at my request and of my free will and accord, and in consideration of my being promoted to a trusty position.

Name: Number

Witnessed: Approved:

Deputy Warden Warden

Record of custody change:

Custody: Date of custody change, and innitial of official entering change.

Close

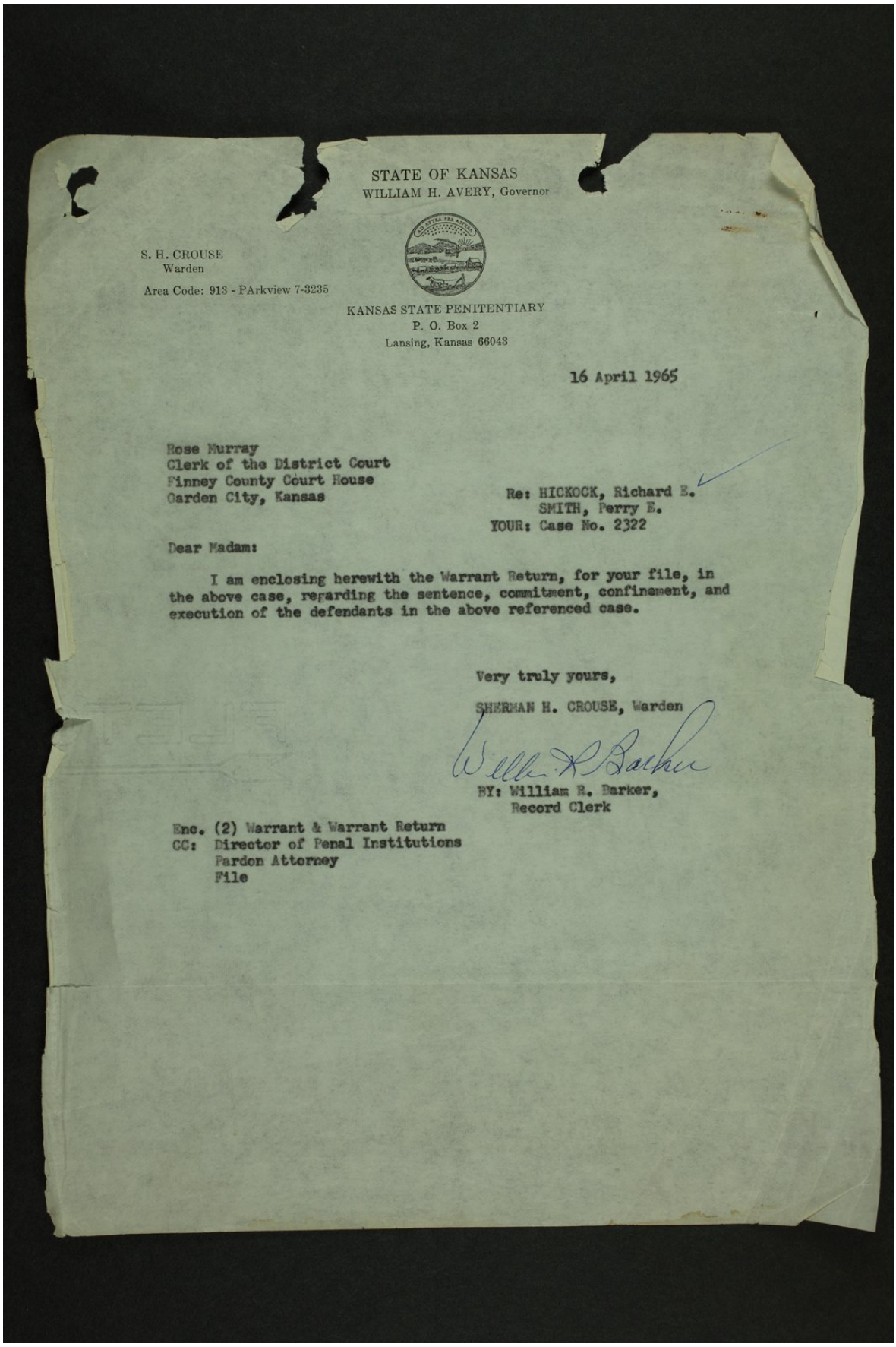
Medium I

Medium

Minimum

Trusty Prisoner's Agreement

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



STATE OF KANSAS
WILLIAM H. AVERY, Governor

S. H. CROUSE
Warden

Area Code: 913 - PArkview 7-3235

KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY
P. O. Box 2
Lansing, Kansas 66043

16 April 1965

Rose Murray
Clerk of the District Court
Finney County Court House
Garden City, Kansas

Re: HICKOCK, Richard E.
SMITH, Perry E.
YOUR: Case No. 2322

Dear Madam:

I am enclosing herewith the Warrant Return, for your file, in the above case, regarding the sentence, commitment, confinement, and execution of the defendants in the above referenced case.

Very truly yours,

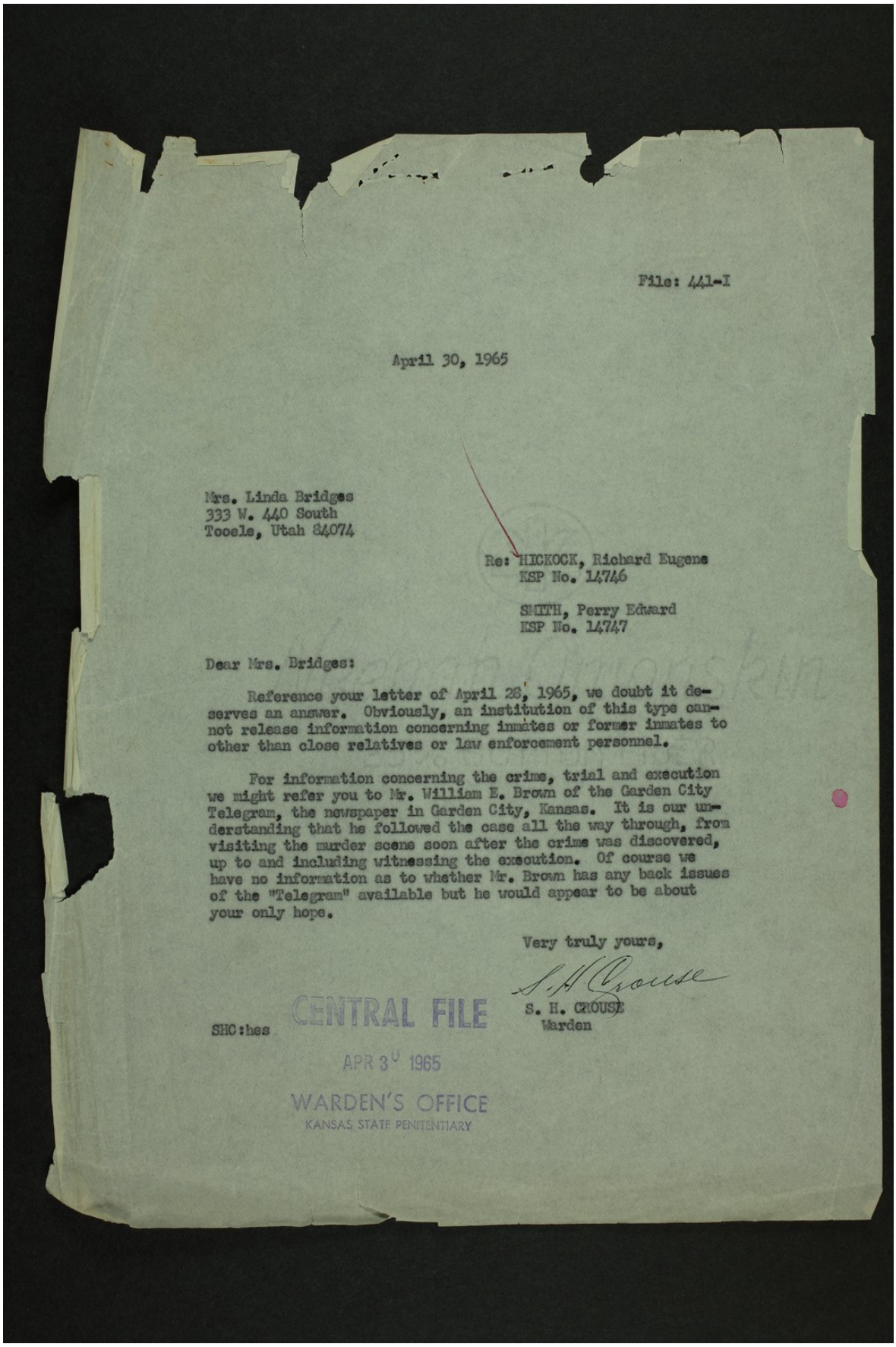
SHERMAN H. CROUSE, Warden

William R. Barker

BY: William R. Barker,
Record Clerk

Enc. (2) Warrant & Warrant Return
CC: Director of Penal Institutions
Pardon Attorney
File

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



File: 441-I

April 30, 1965

Mrs. Linda Bridges
333 W. 440 South
Tooele, Utah 84074

Re: HICKOCK, Richard Eugene
KSP No. 14746

SMITH, Perry Edward
KSP No. 14747

Dear Mrs. Bridges:

Reference your letter of April 28, 1965, we doubt it deserves an answer. Obviously, an institution of this type cannot release information concerning inmates or former inmates to other than close relatives or law enforcement personnel.

For information concerning the crime, trial and execution we might refer you to Mr. William E. Brown of the Garden City Telegram, the newspaper in Garden City, Kansas. It is our understanding that he followed the case all the way through, from visiting the murder scene soon after the crime was discovered, up to and including witnessing the execution. Of course we have no information as to whether Mr. Brown has any back issues of the "Telegram" available but he would appear to be about your only hope.

Very truly yours,

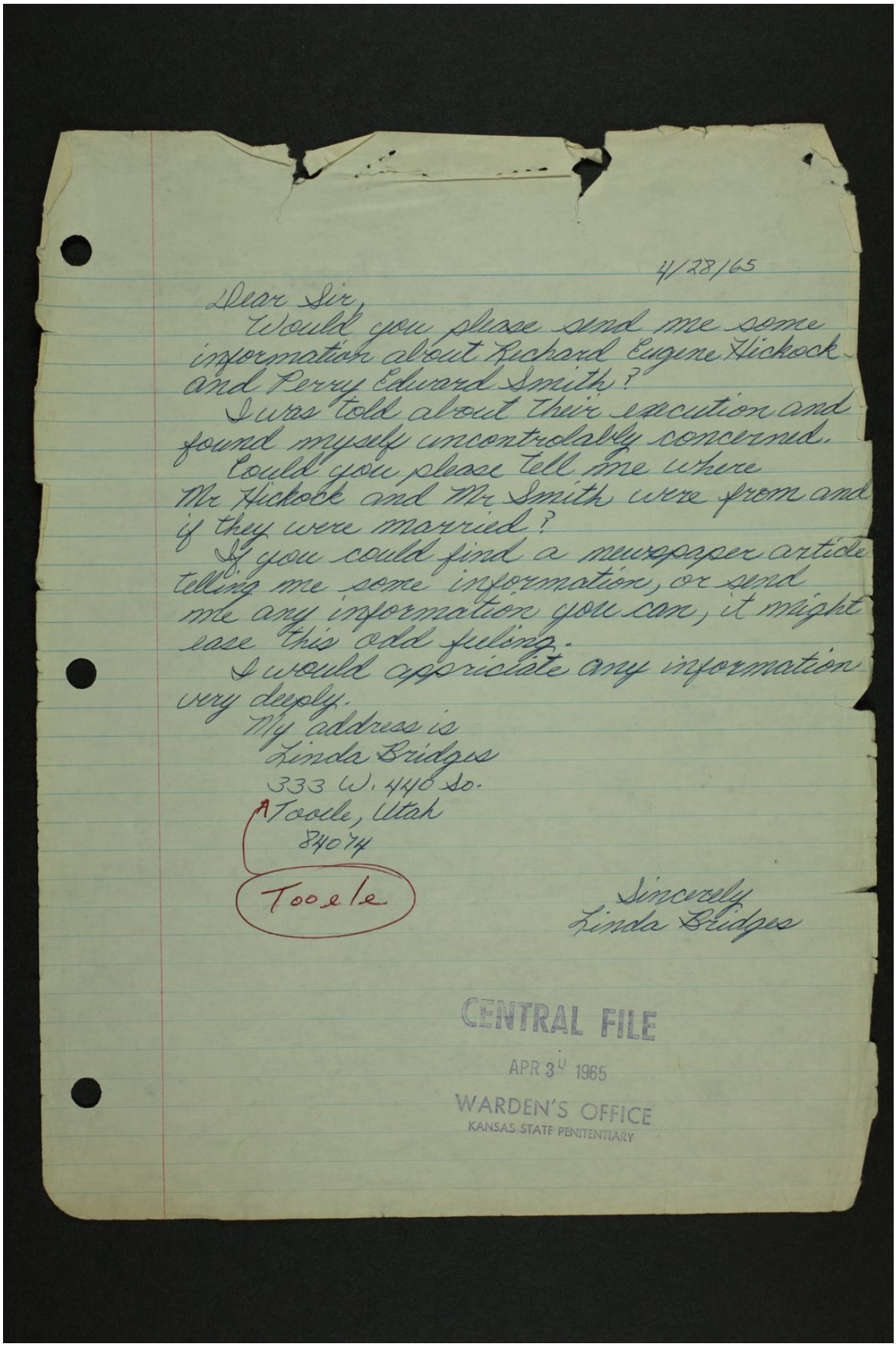
S. H. Crouse

S. H. CROUSE
Warden

SHC:hes

CENTRAL FILE
APR 30 1965
WARDEN'S OFFICE
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



4/28/65

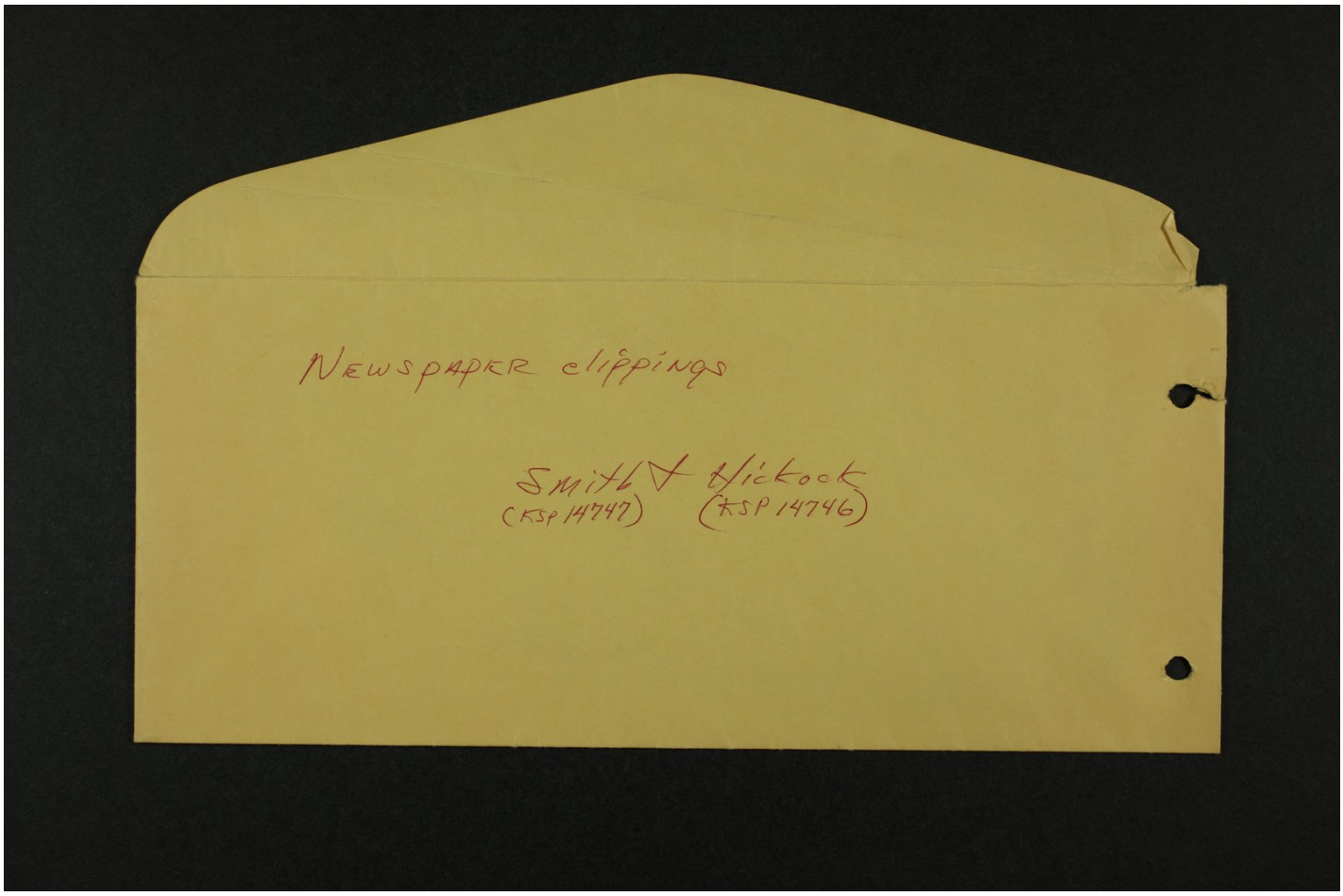
Dear Sir,
Would you please send me some information about Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith?
I was told about their execution and found myself uncontrolably concerned.
Could you please tell me where Mr Hickock and Mr Smith were from and if they were married?
If you could find a newspaper article telling me some information, or send me any information you can, it might ease this odd feeling.
I would appreciate any information very deeply.
My address is
Linda Bridges
333 W. 440 So.
Tooele, Utah
84074

Tooele

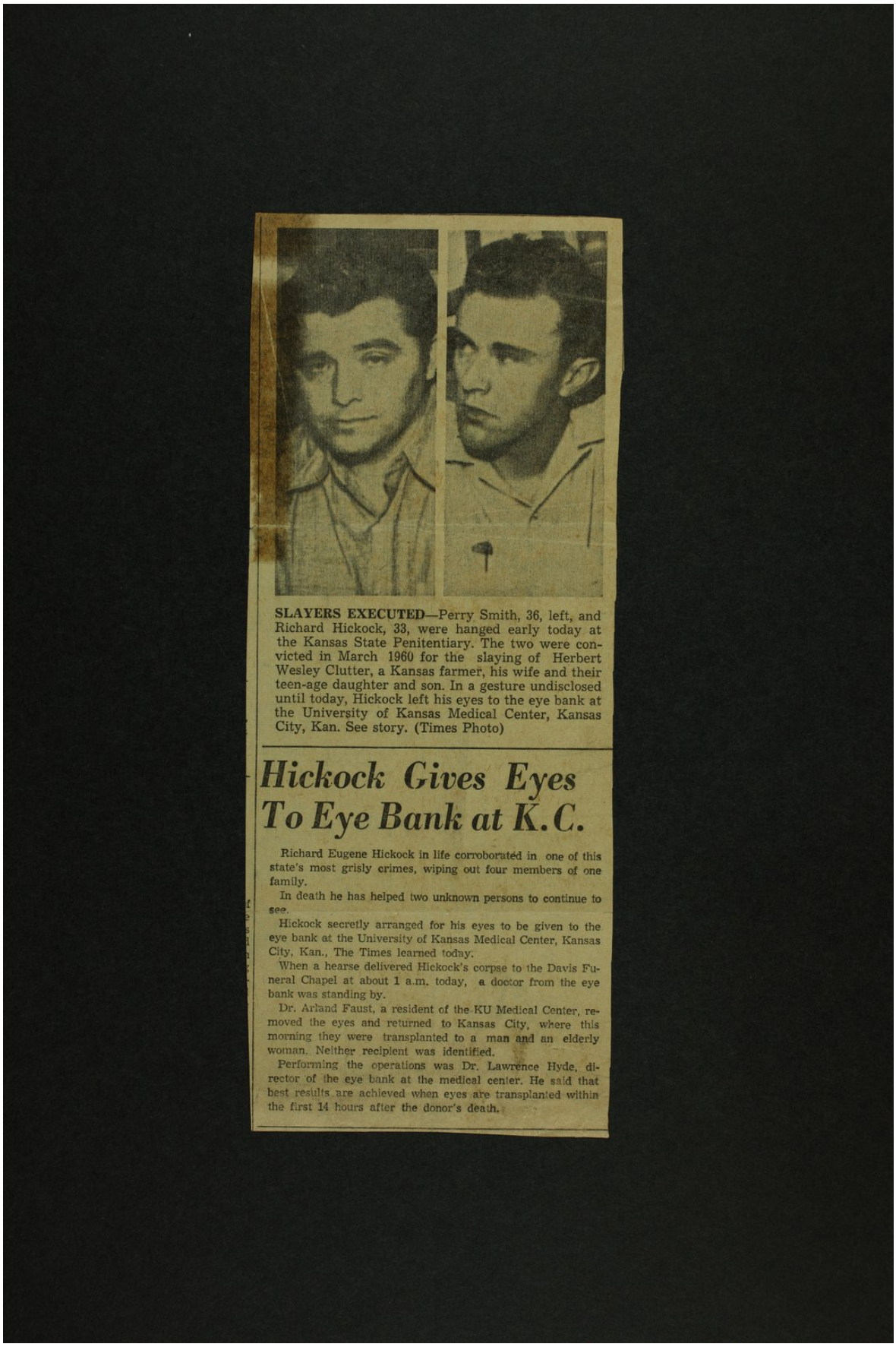
Sincerely
Linda Bridges

CENTRAL FILE
APR 30 1965
WARDEN'S OFFICE
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



SLAYERS EXECUTED—Perry Smith, 36, left, and Richard Hickock, 33, were hanged early today at the Kansas State Penitentiary. The two were convicted in March 1960 for the slaying of Herbert Wesley Clutter, a Kansas farmer, his wife and their teen-age daughter and son. In a gesture undisclosed until today, Hickock left his eyes to the eye bank at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan. See story. (Times Photo)

Hickock Gives Eyes To Eye Bank at K.C.

Richard Eugene Hickock in life corroborated in one of this state's most grisly crimes, wiping out four members of one family.

In death he has helped two unknown persons to continue to see.

Hickock secretly arranged for his eyes to be given to the eye bank at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan., The Times learned today.

When a hearse delivered Hickock's corpse to the Davis Funeral Chapel at about 1 a.m. today, a doctor from the eye bank was standing by.

Dr. Arland Faust, a resident of the KU Medical Center, removed the eyes and returned to Kansas City, where this morning they were transplanted to a man and an elderly woman. Neither recipient was identified.

Performing the operations was Dr. Lawrence Hyde, director of the eye bank at the medical center. He said that best results are achieved when eyes are transplanted within the first 14 hours after the donor's death.

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file

Hickock and Smith Die Early Today at K.S.P.

The Leavenworth Times 5-14-65

A 5-year battle to escape execution terminated at the end of a hangman's noose early today for convicted killers Perry Edward Smith and Richard Eugene Hickock.

The death row count at the Kansas State Penitentiary was reduced by two as Smith, 36, and Hickock, 33, were hanged for the 1959 slayings of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Clutter and their teen-age son and daughter near Holcomb, Kan.

The men who committed a heinous crime together and served time together will be buried side by side in Mt. Muncie Cemetery.

A protracted series of appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court, to lesser federal courts and to the Kansas Supreme Court had postponed their execution four times since March 29, 1960, the date of their conviction at Garden City.

Bound and masked, Hickock was first to drop through the trap door of the heavy wooden gallows. The time was 12:19 a.m. He was pronounced dead 22 minutes later, at 12:41.

After his body was cut down and removed in a waiting hearse, Smith was delivered to the execution chamber, a stone-walled warehouse at the southeast corner of the institution.

Smith's body plummeted through the trap door at 1:02 a.m., and he was pronounced dead 17 minutes later, at 1:19.

The orders of the court were carried out under the direction of Warden Sherman H. Crouse, who read the death warrant to each man. It had been agreed that they would be hanged in alphabetical order unless they themselves decreed otherwise. They chose not to do so.

The final die appeared cast less than 24 hours before the executions when Gov. William H. Avery rejected pleas for executive clemency, a federal judge denied a writ of habeas corpus, and a U. S. Supreme Court justice denied their final petition for a stay of execution.

An Associated Press bulletin on U. S. Supreme Court Justice Byron White's refusal to intervene was relayed to Deputy Warden Kenneth Harton shortly before Hickock and Smith sat down to their final meal of shrimp, French fried potatoes, strawberries and ice cream and soft drinks.

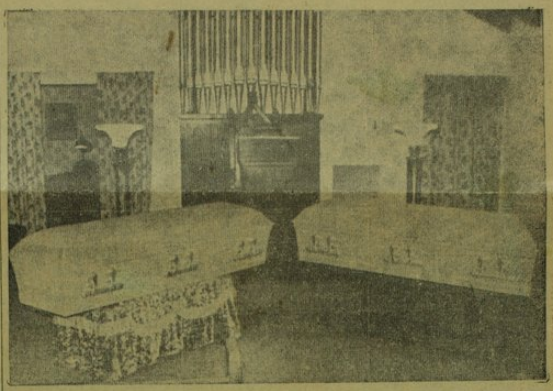
The condemned killers were taken from their death row cells to interrogation rooms for their last meal. The men did not see each other as they ate their last dinner, prepared at their request a short time earlier.

Hickock and Smith remained in the interrogation rooms until taken to the warehouse. Two chaplains spent the final hours with them.

Five newsmen, designated as official witnesses by Warden Crouse, signed papers as witnesses before being admitted to the institution shortly after 11:30 p.m. They represented The Leavenworth Times, The Associated Press, United Press International, and Garden City area news media.

As newsmen were being searched, another writer was escorted to the place where Hickock and Smith waited. He was Truman Capote, a New York author who had followed the case since the slayings, and who has written a book concerning the incident.

Warden Crouse said afterward that Capote was listed on in-



NO VISITORS AT FUNERAL CHAPEL—The bodies of executed killers Perry Edward Smith and Richard Eugene Hickock were prepared for burial and then placed in these two cloth-covered wooden caskets today at the Davis Funeral Chapel. A funeral chapel spokesman said the caskets would not be opened. Thursday morning a graveside service will be held for both men. They are slated to be buried side by side in Mt. Muncie Cemetery. See story. (Times Photo)

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



The Topeka State Journal April 14, 1965

Killers Hanged at Lansing to Go to Unmarked Graves

By JOHNNY JOHNSTON
Special Correspondent

LANSING — A five-year battle to escape execution terminated at the end of a hangman's noose early this morning for convicted killers Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith.

Smith, 36, and Hickock, 33, were hanged for the 1959 slayings of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Clutter and their teenaged son and daughter near Holcomb.

A protracted series of appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court, to lesser federal courts and to the State Supreme Court had postponed their execution four times since March 29, 1960, the date of their conviction at Garden City.

Bound and masked, Hickock was first to drop through the trap door of the heavy wood-en gallows. The time was 12:19 a.m. He was pronounced dead 22 minutes later, at 12:41 a.m.

All Over at 1:19

After Hickock's body was removed in a waiting hearse, Smith was delivered to the execution chamber, a stone-walled warehouse at the southeast corner of the institution. Smith's body plummeted through the trap door at 1:02 a.m. He was pronounced dead 17 minutes later at 1:19 a.m.

The orders of the court were carried out under direction of Warden Sherman Crouse, who read the death warrant to each man.

Crouse has been recovering from an operation but returned to his office Tuesday and conducted the executions.

It had been agreed they would be hanged in alphabetical order unless they decreed otherwise. They chose not to do so.

Less than 24 hours before the executions Gov. William H. Avery rejected pleas for clemency, a federal judge at Topeka denied a writ of habeas corpus and a U. S. Supreme Court justice denied a petition for a stay.

Last Meal

Notice of Supreme Court Justice Byron White's refusal to intervene was relayed to Deputy Warden Kenneth Harton shortly before Smith and Hickock sat down to their final meal of shrimp, french fried potatoes, strawberries and ice cream and soft drinks.

That was at about 6 p.m. Tuesday.

The condemned killers were taken from the death-row cells to interrogation rooms for their last meal. The men did not see each other as they ate. They remained in those rooms until taken to the warehouse.

Two chaplains spent the final hours with them. Five newsmen, designated as official witnesses, were admitted to the institution shortly after 11:30 p.m.

PERRY E. SMITH
. . . wanted no prayer

RICHARD E. HICKOCK
. . . 'went very brave'

Author Sees Pair

As the five were being searched, another writer was escorted to where Hickock and Smith waited. He was Truman Capote, a New York author who had followed the case since the slayings, and who has written a book concerning the murders.

Warden Crouse said afterwards that Capote was listed on inmate visitor cards as a friend of Hickock and Smith. They had asked repeatedly to see him as the execution time drew near and it was a matter of fulfilling a final request in admitting him to see them, Crouse explained.

A few minutes before midnight, the witnesses were escorted to waiting cars and driven the short distance from the administration building to the old twine factory warehouse.

Senators Present

Five lights suspended from the roof illuminated the chilly room. A short time later, a second car arrived, bearing Crouse, State Sen. Ed Reid Jr., R-Leavenworth, and State Sen. Jack Barr, R-Leoti.

They saw a study wooden gallows, fashioned with the traditional 13 steps. A wooden railing extended the length of the steps and extended around the platform. A large cross-beam extended diagonally above the gallows.

Two heavy ropes were suspended from it. A noose was attached to each.

Charles McAtee, acting director of Kansas penal institutions, accompanied Crouse and the state senators.

All waited until another state car arrived at 12:14 a.m.

Hickock Goes to Gallows

Hickock stepped out, looked at those assembled and smiled for a moment. He whispered to Harlin. Hickock asked if there was a member of the Clutter family present.

Told "no," he then asked if there was a relative of the Clutters present. Again, the reply was "no."

Crouse then read the death warrant.

The hangman, dressed in a black suit and grey hat, waited atop the gallows.

Hickock climbed the gallows at 12:17 a.m. The Rev. Edgar G. Meissner, prison Protestant chaplain, recited a portion of the 23rd Psalm.

The hangman triggered the trap door at 12:19 a.m.

Then a guard stepped beneath the platform and opened Hickock's shirt so the prison physician could listen to his heart. Hickock's body hung almost motionless.

Heartbeat Checked

At 12:26 a.m., the doctor stepped forward again to listen but Hickock's heart was not still.

"This man went very brave, very brave," the chaplain said.

The chaplain said he had discussed the passage from the 23rd psalm frequently with Hickock.

At 12:33 a.m., the silence of the warehouse was broken as rain splattered on the roof.

Eight minutes later, Hickock was pronounced dead.

Heavy leather straps which had bound his body were removed and a hearse from Leavenworth drove inside.

The body was placed in the hearse and taken to the funeral home.

At 12:56 a.m., a car bearing Smith entered the warehouse door. The Rev. James E. E. Post, stood close by Smith.

Smith Smiles, Winks

They talked in hushed tones for a few moments and then Crouse approached. Smith was chewing gum.

He smiled faintly at the Rev. Mr. Post and then winked as Crouse begun to read the execution warrant.

Smith climbed the steps precisely at 1 a.m.

He spat the gum into the minister's hand. At 1:01, he was masked and the noose was adjusted.

Smith was hanged at 1:02 a.m.

Chaplain Post, who had known both men while they were on death row, returned to ground level.

He appeared visibly shaken as he was embraced by Chaplain Meissner.

The hangman retired to the far corner of the warehouse until after the doctor pronounced Smith dead at 1:19.

Two Men Leave

Then, the hangman and another unidentified man left the door through which all had entered. The physician repeated the procedure of listening to Smith's heart beat.

Newsmen left the warehouse immediately after Smith's time of death was determined and the hearse returned for the second body.

Heavy leather straps which had bound his body were removed and a hearse from Leavenworth drove inside.

The body was placed in the hearse and taken to the funeral home.

At 12:56 a.m., a car bearing Smith entered the warehouse door. The Rev. James E. E. Post, stood close by Smith.

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He smiled faintly at the Rev. Mr. Post and then winked as Crouse begun to read the execution warrant.

Smith climbed the steps precisely at 1 a.m.

He spat the gum into the minister's hand. At 1:01, he was later: "This is not the way. We didn't solve a thing. We didn't bring them (the Clutters) back.

Graves Together

Hickock and Smith will be buried side by side in unmarked graves at Mt. Muncie Cemetery, Leavenworth. The bodies will be in cloth-covered wooden caskets.

Prison officials said there had been no requests to claim the bodies and no arrangements had been made for markers. The funeral home had been directed by prison authorities to purchase single plots for each man. The cost of Smith's burial will be $250 less than that for Hickock, officials said, since Smith is an honorably discharged veteran of the Korean War and is entitled to a $250 burial allowance.

Chaplain Meissner will preside at the graveside services, tentatively scheduled for Thursday morning.

The Topeka State Journal
Member Associated Press
G. A. Mahaffie, Editor and Publisher
6th and Jackson Sts., Topeka, Kan.
Vol. 57, No. 81, Wednesday, April 14, 1965
Published daily except Sunday and Christmas at 6th and December 25, by The Topeka State Journal, Inc., Topeka, Kan. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Topeka, Kan.
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Daily only ... $2.60

Topeka State Journal
Wednesday, April 14, 1965
CORNS Between Toes?
Try soft-as-cloth foam, new special Dr. Scholl's Zino-pads for corns between toes. Separates medicated disks also removes corns.
Dr. Scholl's Zino-pads
New: a watch that works like a charm

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



(Published in The Garden City Telegram Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23, 1960)

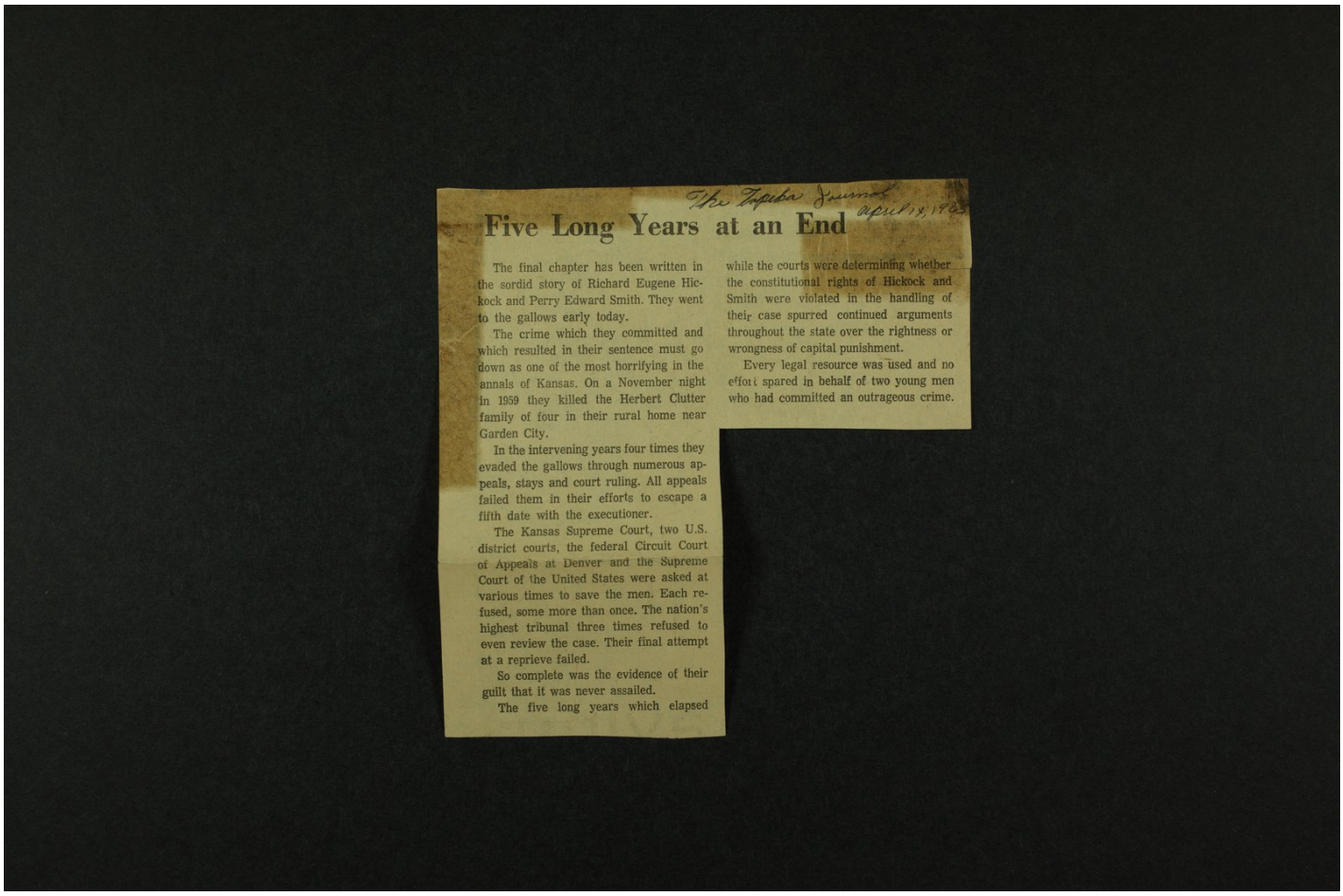
NOTICE

KSP Reg. No. 14746

I, Richard Eugene Hickock, sentenced 4-4-60 for the crimes of Four (4) Counts Murder 1st Degree in Finney County, Kansas, will apply on 12-28-60 for Executive Clemency, to the Governor, at his office in Topeka, Kansas.

Petitioner:
Richard Eugene Hickock

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



The Topeka Journal April 14, 1965

Five Long Years at an End

The final chapter has been written in the sordid story of Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith. They went to the gallows early today.

The crime which they committed and which resulted in their sentence must go down as one of the most horrifying in the annals of Kansas. On a November night in 1959 they killed the Herbert Clutter family of four in their rural home near Garden City.

In the intervening years four times they evaded the gallows through numerous appeals, stays and court ruling. All appeals failed them in their efforts to escape a fifth date with the executioner.

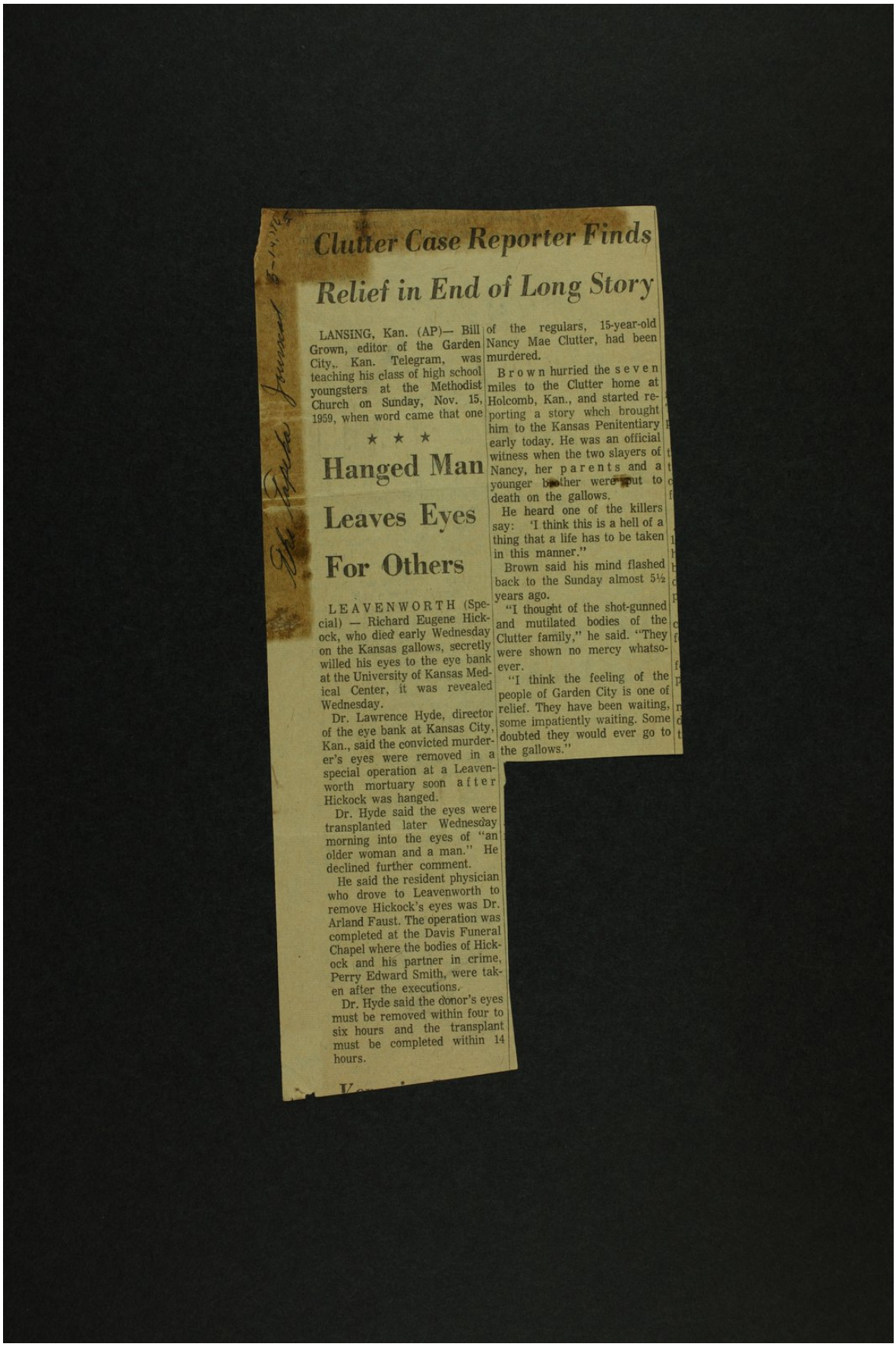
The Kansas Supreme Court, two U.S. district courts, the federal Circuit Court of Appeals at Denver and the Supreme Court of the United States were asked at various times to save the men. Each refused, some more than once. The nation's highest tribunal three times refused to even review the case. Their final attempt at a reprieve failed.

So complete was the evidence of their guilt that it was never assailed.

The five long years which elapsed while the courts were determining whether the constitutional rights of Hickock and Smith were violated in the handling of their case spurred continued arguments throughout the state over the rightness or wrongness of capital punishment.

Every legal resource was used and no effort spared in behalf of two young men who had committed an outrageous crime.

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



Journal
Topeka

Clutter Case Reporter Finds Relief in End of Long Story

LANSING, Kan. (AP)— Bill Grown, editor of the Garden City,. Kan. Telegram, was teaching his class of high school youngsters at the Methodist Church on Sunday, Nov. 15, 1959, when word came that one of the regulars, 15-year-old Nancy Mae Clutter, had been murdered.

Brown hurried the seven miles to the Clutter home at Holcomb, Kan., and started reporting a story whch brought him to the Kansas Penitentiary early today. He was an official witness when the two slayers of Nancy, her parents and a younger brother were put to death on the gallows.

He heard one of the killers say: 'I think this is a hell of a thing that a life has to be taken in this manner."

Brown said his mind flashed back to the Sunday almost 5½ years ago.

"I thought of the shot-gunned and mutilated bodies of the Clutter family," he said. "They were shown no mercy whatsoever.

"I think the feeling of the people of Garden City is one of relief. They have been waiting, some impatiently waiting. Some doubted they would ever go to the gallows."

★ ★ ★

Hanged Man Leaves Eyes For Others

LEAVENWORTH (Special) — Richard Eugene Hickock, who died early Wednesday on the Kansas gallows, secretly willed his eyes to the eye bank at the University of Kansas Medical Center, it was revealed Wednesday.

Dr. Lawrence Hyde, director of the eye bank at Kansas City, Kan., said the convicted murderer's eyes were removed in a special operation at a Leavenworth mortuary soon after Hickock was hanged.

Dr. Hyde said the eyes were transplanted later Wednesday morning into the eyes of "an older woman and a man." He declined further comment.

He said the resident physician who drove to Leavenworth to remove Hickock's eyes was Dr. Arland Faust. The operation was completed at the Davis Funeral Chapel where the bodies of Hickock and his partner in crime, Perry Edward Smith, were taken after the executions.

Dr. Hyde said the donor's eyes must be removed within four to six hours and the transplant must be completed within 14 hours.

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



DIE ON ROPE FOR BLOODY CRIME

(Continued From Page 1A.)

the platform at the top of 13 steps. Two nooses were suspended from a large crossbeam built diagonally across the platform.

Hickock was driven into the warehouse at 12:14 a. m.

After guards unshackeled Hickock's feet, he looked at newsmen and smiled and whispered to the deputy warden. He asked if there was a member of the Clutter family present and was told no.

He whispered the inquiry again and got another negative.

The Second Arrives

At 12:56, Smith was driven into the warehouse.

The former Protestant chaplain, the Rev. James Post, was with him. They talked briefly.

Smith was heavily bound with straps and he was chewing gum. He smiled faintly at Mr. Post and he winked as Warden Sherman Crouse began to read the execution order.

A few seconds after 1 a. m. he climbed the 13 steps. He spat out his gum in the chaplain's hand and he was masked and the noose was adjusted.

As Hickock was waiting to be dropped, the prison chaplain, the Rev. Edgar Meissner, read part of the 23rd Psalm.

Faintly, a Prayer

As Smith waited on the gallows, Mr. Post said in a barely audible voice: "The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away. Blessed is the name of the Lord. May the Lord have mercy on your soul."

Mr. Post said later Smith did not want anything read.

"I cheated him a little bit," the chaplain said. He had known both men for most of their long stay on death row.

After each man was dropped, a guard stepped forward and opened his shirt. After a brief interval, the prison physician, Dr. Robert Moore, stepped forward to listen to his heart.

A moment after Smith was pronounced dead, the hangman left by the door through which all had entered. He has never been identified. Warden Crouse said he is not an employee of the state. He is paid by the job, and the amount was not disclosed.

Visit From Mother

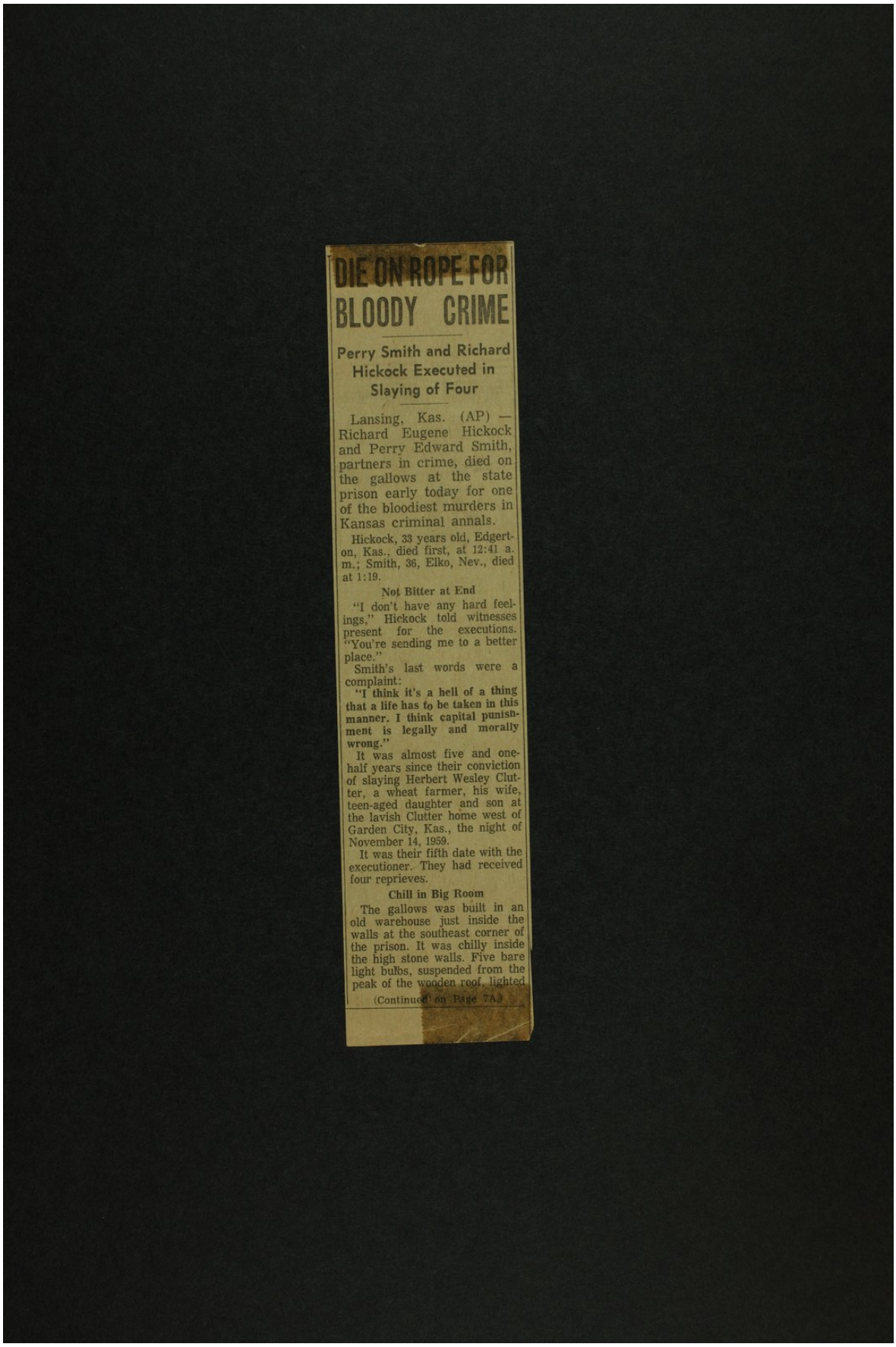
Hickock's mother, Mrs. Eunice Hickock, who lives at Bethel, and his brother, Walter D. Hickock of Garnett, Kas., visited him yesterday afternoon.

Joseph Jenkins and Robert Bingham, Kansas City, Kansas, lawyers who made the last-ditch efforts to get them a new trial, visited both men.

So did Truman Capote, New York writer who has written a book reporting the murders, the trial at Garden City and the appeal efforts in detail.

Hickock and Smith had eaten their final meal in separate rooms, each with a chaplain sitting by. They had ordered spiced shrimp, french fries, garlic bread, ice cream and strawberries and whipped cream.

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



DIE ON ROPE FOR BLOODY CRIME

Perry Smith and Richard Hickock Executed in Slaying of Four

Lansing, Kas. (AP) — Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith, partners in crime, died on the gallows at the state prison early today for one of the bloodiest murders in Kansas criminal annals.

Hickock, 33 years old, Edgerton, Kas., died first, at 12:41 a. m.; Smith, 36, Elko, Nev., died at 1:19.

Not Bitter at End

"I don't have any hard feelings," Hickock told witnesses present for the executions. "You're sending me to a better place."

Smith's last words were a complaint:

"I think it's a hell of a thing that a life has to be taken in this manner. I think capital punishment is legally and morally wrong."

It was almost five and one-half years since their conviction of slaying Herbert Wesley Clutter, a wheat farmer, his wife, teen-aged daughter and son at the lavish Clutter home west of Garden City, Kas., the night of November 14, 1959.

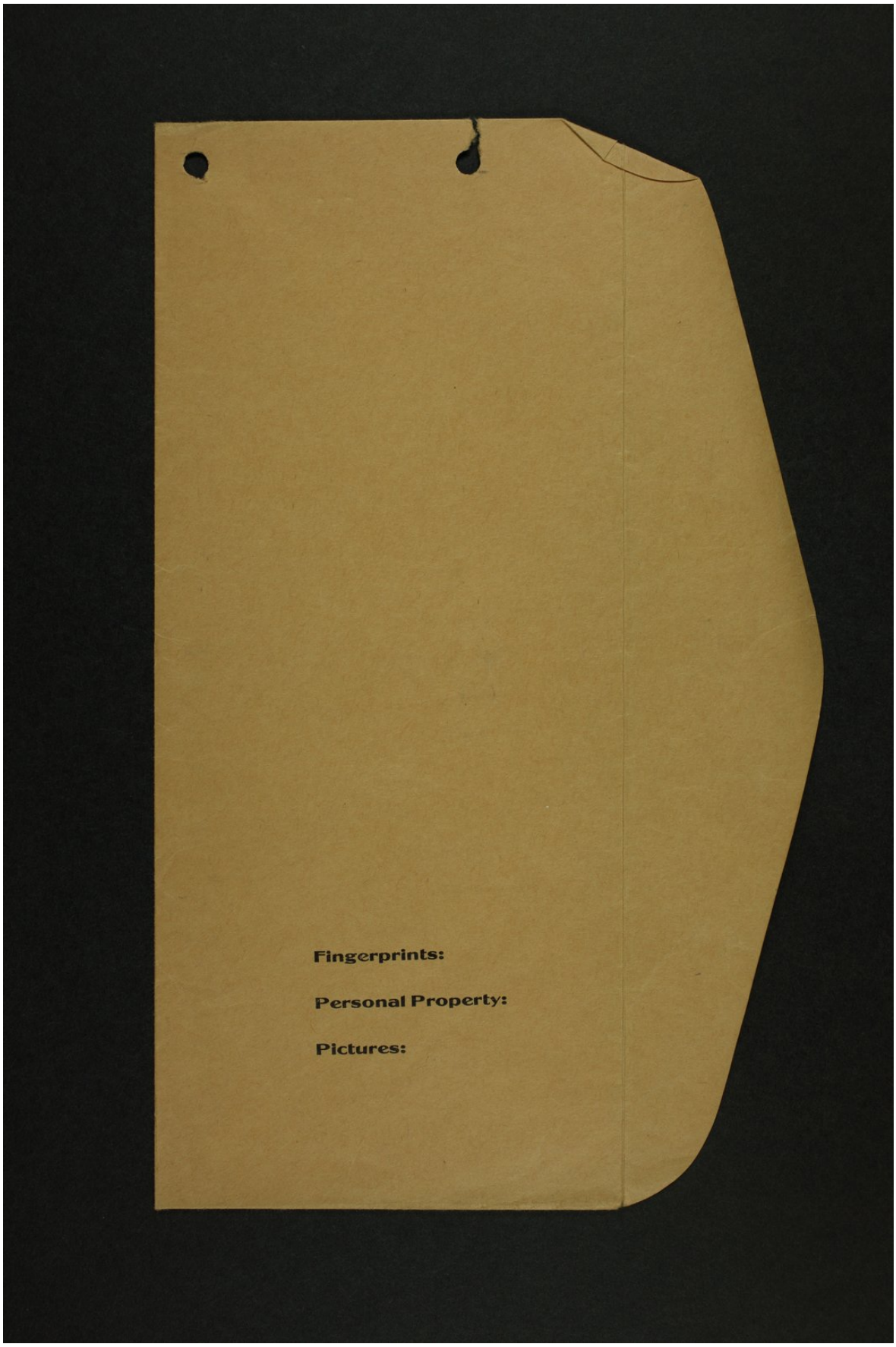
It was their fifth date with the executioner. They had received four reprieves.

Chill in Big Room

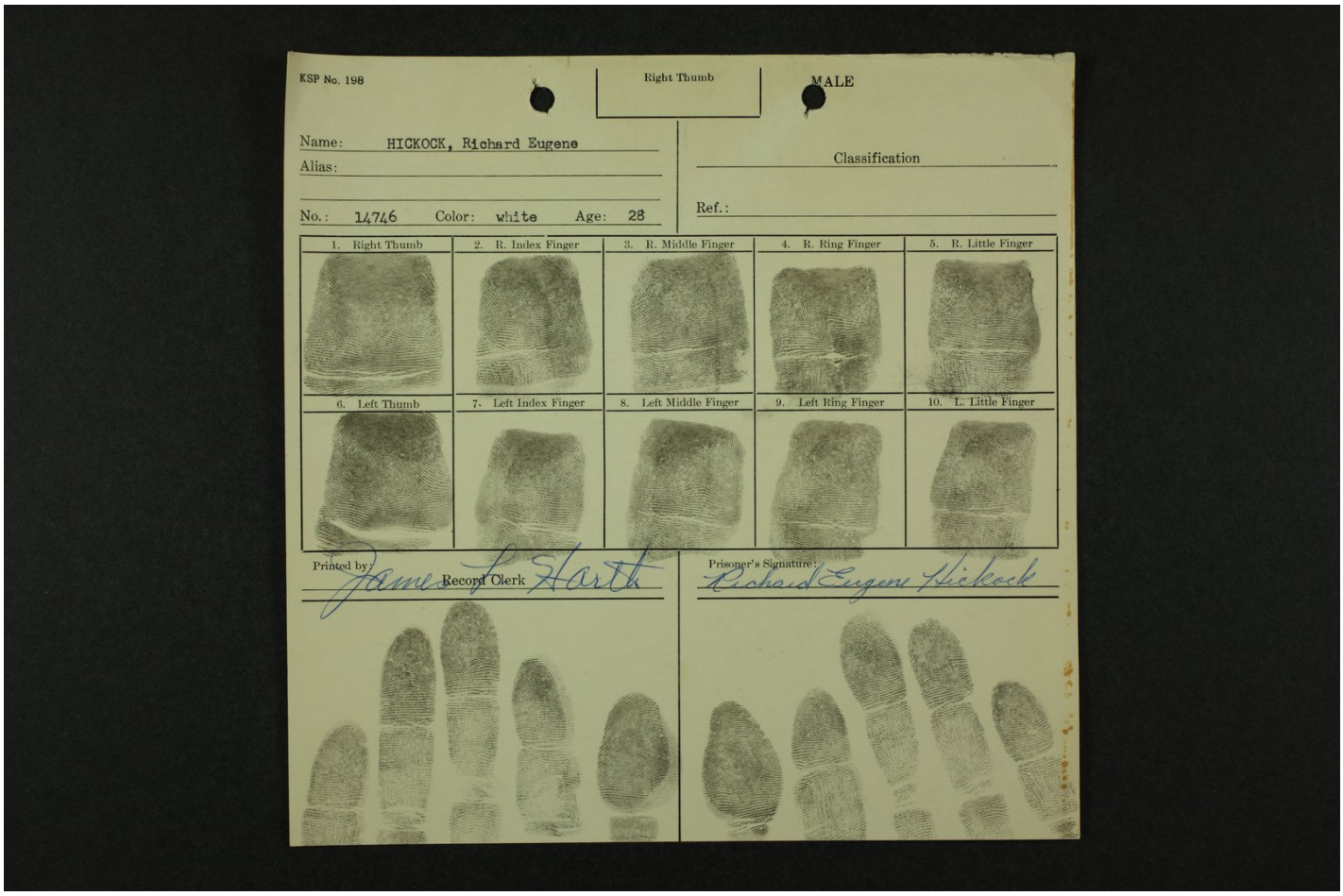
The gallows was built in an old warehouse just inside the walls at the southeast corner of the prison. It was chilly inside the high stone walls. Five bare light bulbs, suspended from the peak of the wooden roof, lighted

(Continued on Page 7A)

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



KSP No. 198

Right Thumb

MALE

Name: HICKOCK, Richard Eugene

Alias:

Classification

No.: 14746 Color: white Age: 28

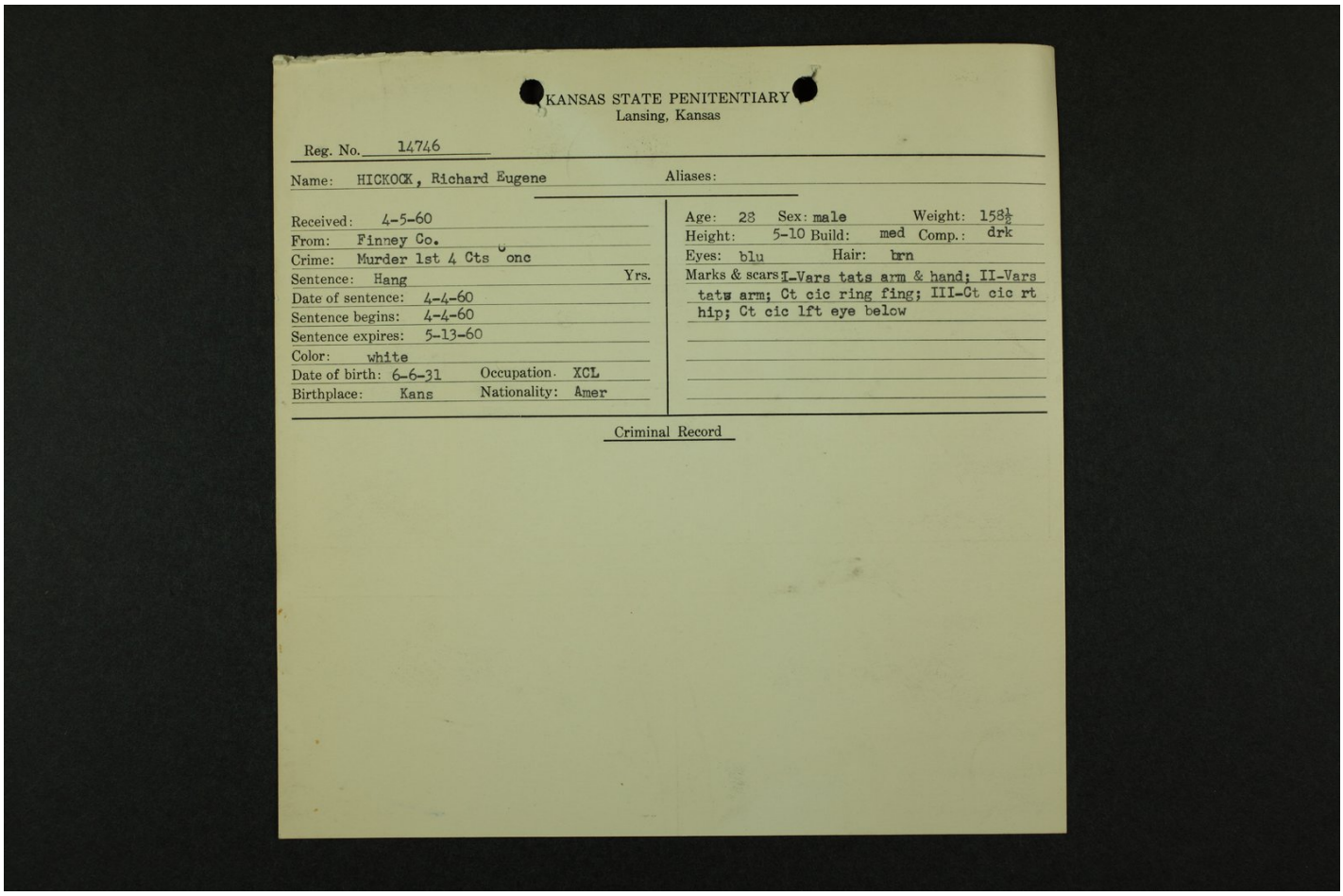
Ref.:

1. Right Thumb	2. R. Index Finger	3. R. Middle Finger	4. R. Ring Finger	5. R. Little Finger
6. Left Thumb	7. Left Index Finger	8. Left Middle Finger	9. Left Ring Finger	10. L. Little Finger

Printed by: James L. Harth Record Clerk

Prisoner's Signature: Richard Eugene Hickock

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY
Lansing, Kansas

Reg. No. 14746

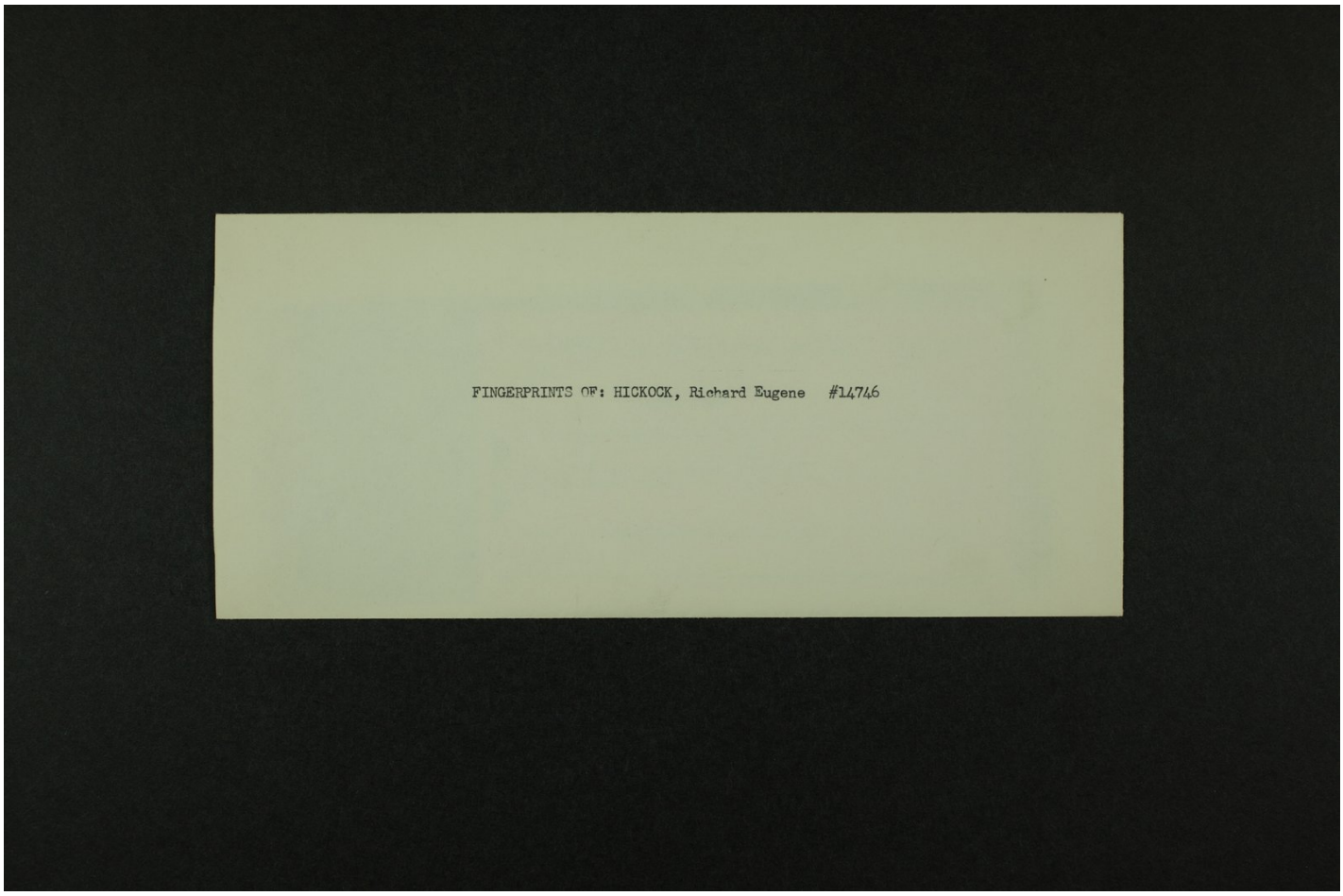
Name: HICKOCK, Richard Eugene Aliases:

Received: 4-5-60
From: Finney Co.
Crime: Murder 1st 4 Cts onc
Sentence: Hang Yrs.
Date of sentence: 4-4-60
Sentence begins: 4-4-60
Sentence expires: 5-13-60
Color: white
Date of birth: 6-6-31 Occupation: XCL
Birthplace: Kans Nationality: Amer

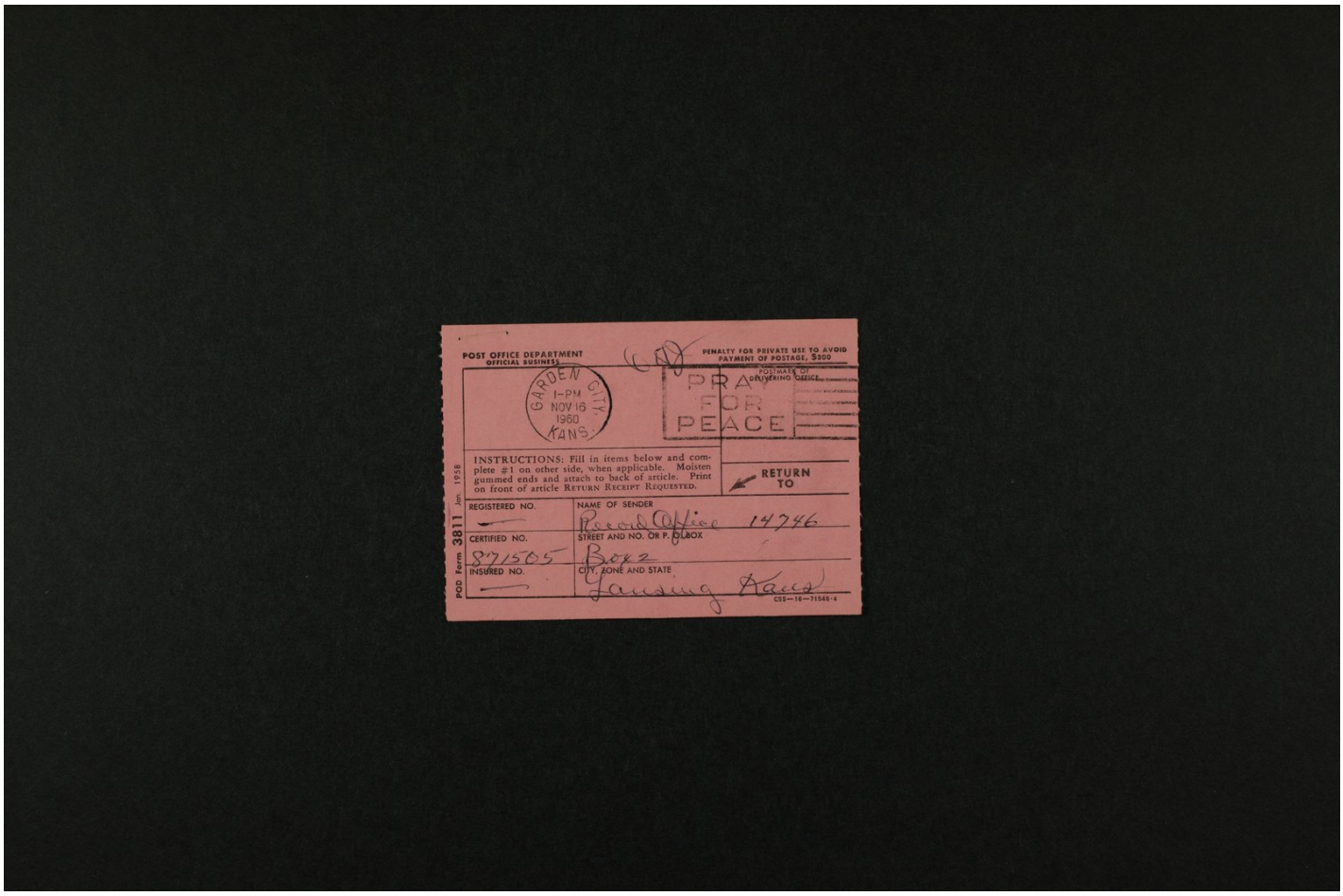
Age: 28 Sex: male Weight: 158½
Height: 5-10 Build: med Comp.: drk
Eyes: blu Hair: brn
Marks & scars I-Vars tats arm & hand; II-Vars tats arm; Ct cic ring fing; III-Ct cic rt hip; Ct cic lft eye below

Criminal Record

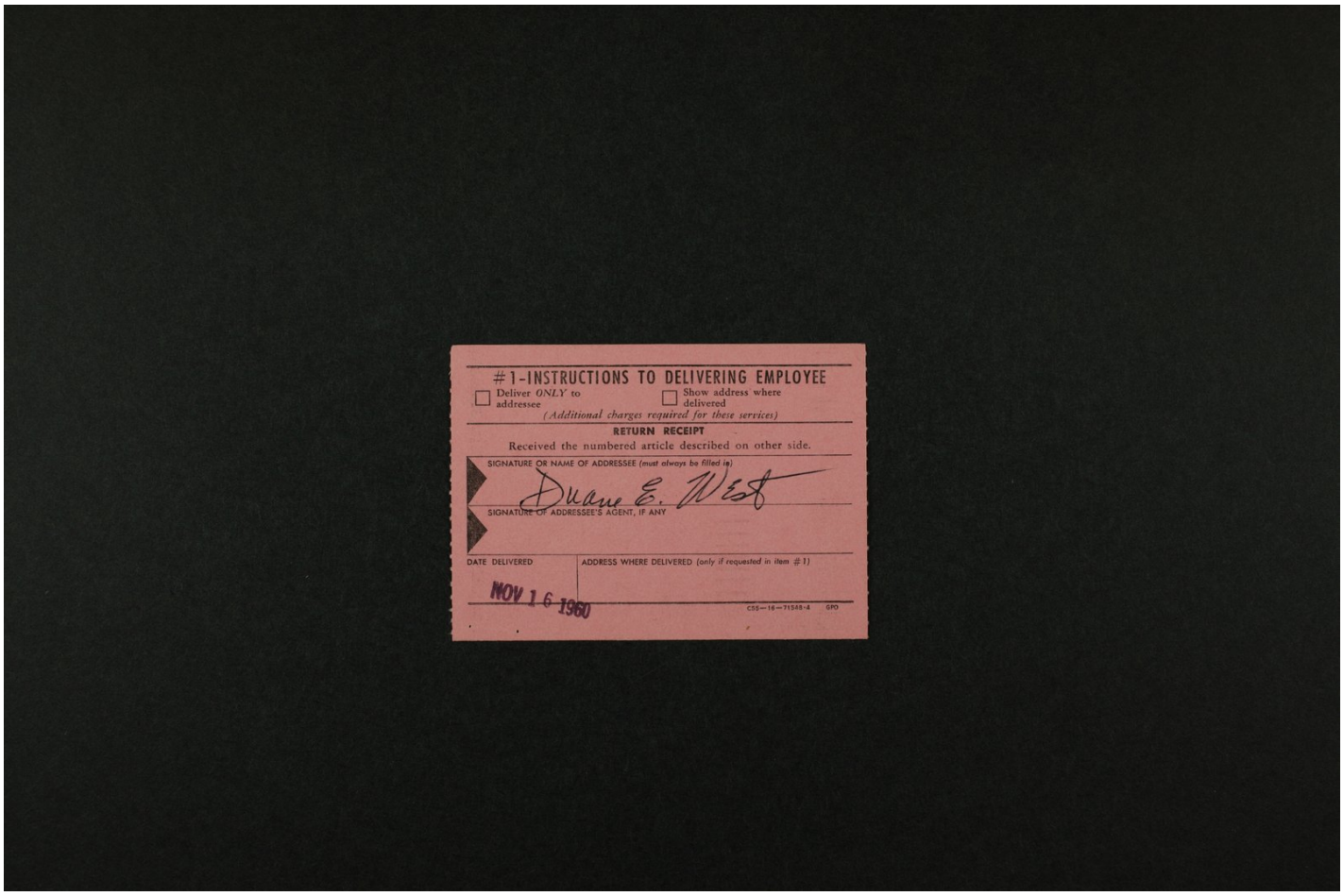
Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



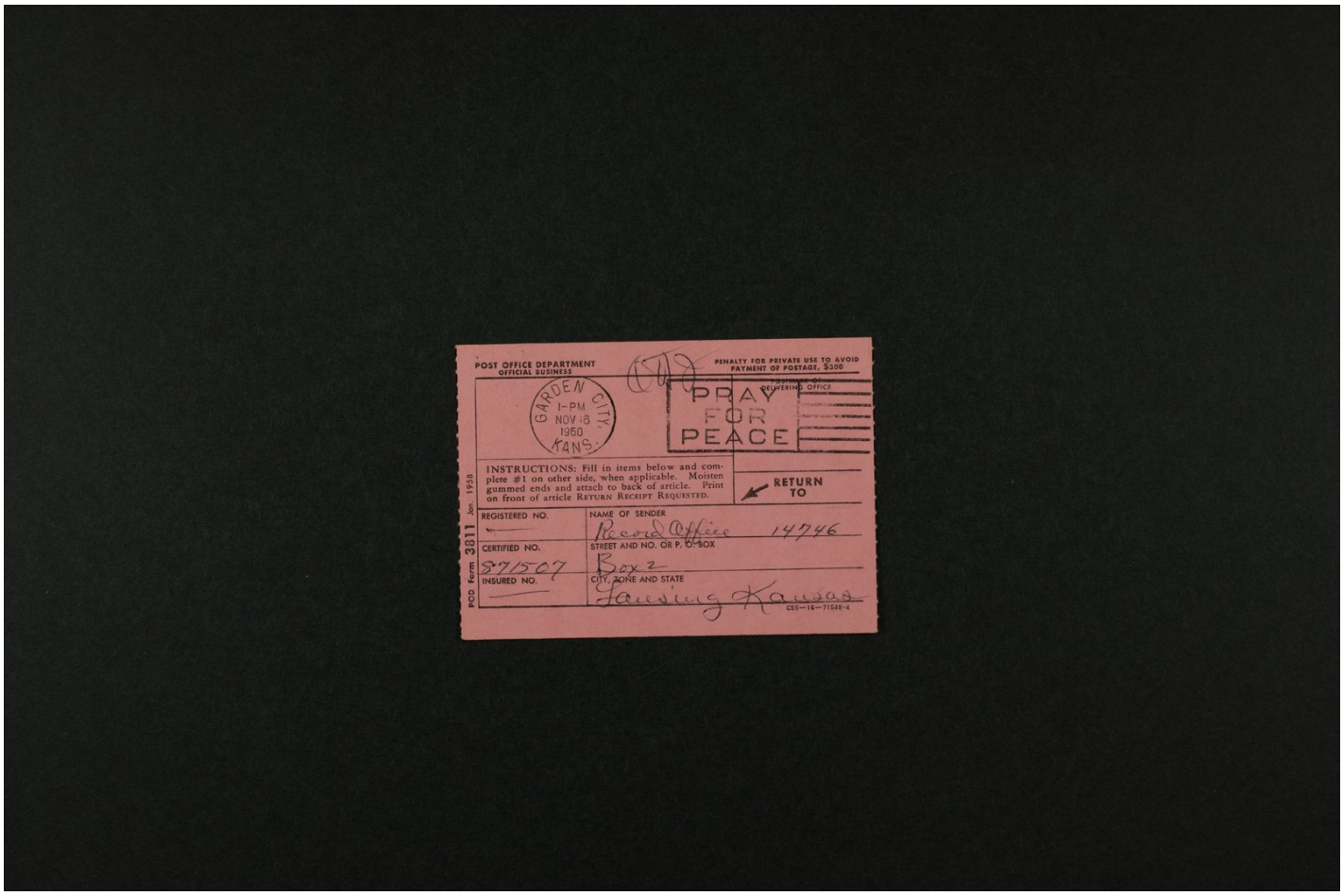
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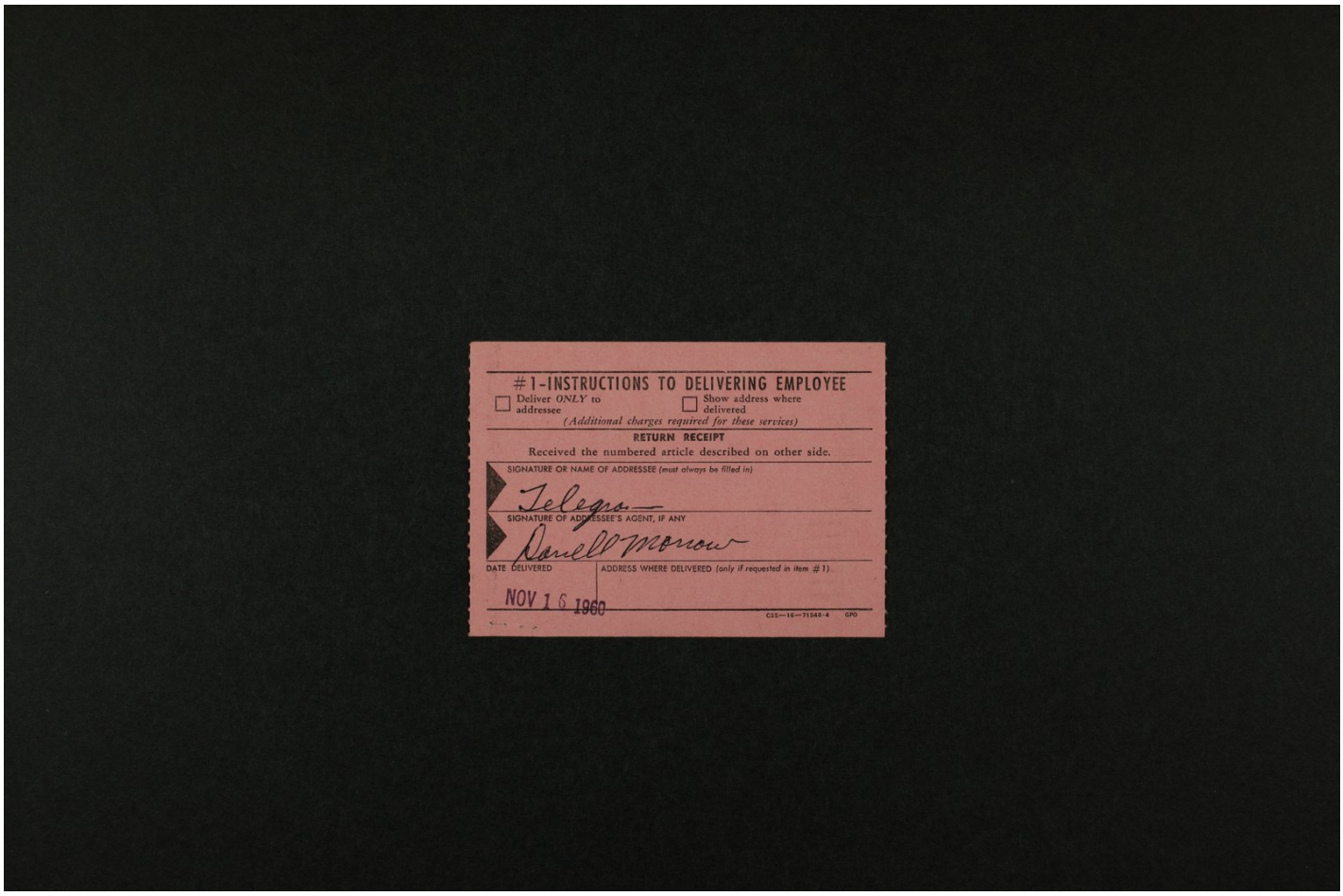
Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file



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#1-INSTRUCTIONS TO DELIVERING EMPLOYEE

☐ Deliver *ONLY* to addressee ☐ Show address where delivered

(Additional charges required for these services)

RETURN RECEIPT

Received the numbered article described on other side.

SIGNATURE OR NAME OF ADDRESSEE *(must always be filled in)*

Telegram

SIGNATURE OF ADDRESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY

Darell Morrow

DATE DELIVERED

NOV 16 1960

ADDRESS WHERE DELIVERED *(only if requested in item #1)*

C2S—16—71548-4 GPO

Richard Eugene Hickock inmate case file

