

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

### Section 8, Pages 211 - 240

The Kansas State Penitentiary case file on Perry Edward Smith, inmate number 14747. Smith and his accomplice, Richard Hickock, 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. Smith 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.

Creator: Kansas State Penitentiary

Date: 1959 - 1965

Callnumber: State Penitentiary, Inmate Files, Executed Prisoners, Box 1

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 208964

Item Identifier: 208964

[www.kansasmemory.org/item/208964](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/208964)

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HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

December 10, 1963

Mr. Tex Smith  
P.O. Box 783  
Reno, Nevada

Re: SMITH, Perry Edward  
KSP No. 14747

Dear Mr. Smith:

We appreciate the Christmas Card you sent for Perry. It has been sent in to Perry.

Perry is doing fine. An appeal is still pending and at the present we have no date set.

We have had your name added to Perry's mail and visiting list. In the future you may address mail to him at Box 2, Lansing, Kansas.

Your interest in your son's welfare is most appreciated.

Very truly yours,

S. H. CROUSE  
Warden

SHC:hes

CENTRAL FILE

DEC 10 1963

WARDEN'S OFFICE  
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

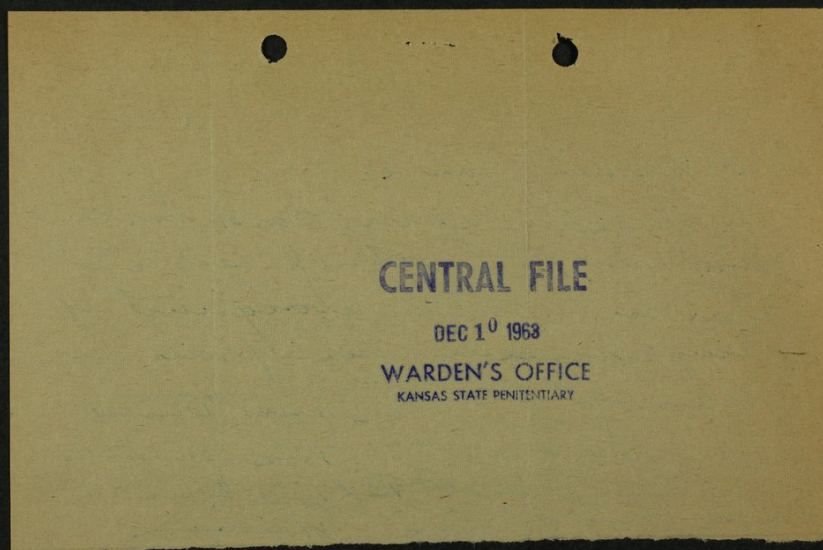
## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

Dec 3-63

Mr Warden Crause.

Inclosed is a Inmate Card for my  
son Perry E Smith - please state  
how he is gettin along and if  
any change in his affairs has  
taken place -  
Yours Truly  
T. E. Smith  
P.O. Box 793 Reno  
Nevada

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file



## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

DEPUTY WARDEN'S OFFICE

NAME SMITH NUMBER 14747 DATE DECEMBER 12, 1963

I, THE ABOVE NAMED INMATE, RECEIVED FROM THE DEPUTY WARDEN THE FOLLOWING  
ARTICLES IN GOOD ORDER THE DATE.

One (1) book titled: LIFE PICTORIAL ATLAS OF THE WORLD.

APPROVED BY THE WARDEN: 12-12-63.

(CENTRAL FILE)

*St. Berlin* SIGNED: Smith 14747  
(LAST NAME & NUMBER)

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

DEPUTY WARDEN'S OFFICE

NAME SMITH NUMBER 14747 DATE NOVEMBER 13, 1963

I, THE ABOVE NAMED INMATE, RECEIVED FROM THE DEPUTY WARDEN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES IN OOK ORDER THE DATE.

(9) Sheets of Artists paper. Note; one sheet was cut by Post Office.

APPROVED BY THE WARDEN: 11-13-63.

(ORIGINAL FILE)

Lt Berlin

SIGNED: Smith 14747  
(LAST NAME & NUMBER)

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

KSP No. 1

**INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**  
Kansas State Penitentiary

From: ~~CHAS. J. SMITH~~ INMATE 14747 SMITH Date: 2 AUGUST 1963

To: ALL CONCERNED Subject: STA-SET RUBBER CEMENT

I, the undersigned, do hereby authorize the destruction, in any manner deemed necessary, of one bottle of Sta-Set Rubber Cement, the cement being labeled dangerous, extremely inflammable, and harmful if swallowed. This bottle of compound was sent into me from Dave Blick's Art Supply, and due to it's contents, I waive all rights to its use.

CENTRAL FILE  
JAN 14 1964  
WARDEN'S OFFICE  
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

*Perry E. Smith* 14747  
PERRY SMITH, #14747

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

October 29, 1963

Mr. Donald E. Cullivan  
USAID/RC  
APO 676  
New York, New York

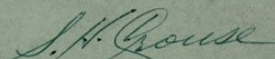
Re: SMITH, Perry Edward  
KSP No. 14747

Dear Mr. Cullivan:

Regarding your request to send money in the form of a personal check to the above inmate, we have an institutional rule which prohibits us from accepting money in the form of cash or personal checks.

My advice would be to wait until such time as either money orders or bank drafts were available to you.

Very truly yours,

  
S. H. CROUSE  
Warden

SHC:hes

CENTRAL FILE

OCT 29 1963

WARDEN'S OFFICE  
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

OCTOBER 22, 1963

Dear Mr. Grouse,

I would like to thank you, and all other Kansas officials who may have been responsible, for your kindness in admitting me to Perry Smith's mailing list.

If, in the future, I should want to send a little money to Perry, would it be permissible to do so by personal check? While I read the regulations on this matter, a check is the only form of US money available to me here in Brazil. If this is any problem I certainly don't wish to inconvenience you. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

we do not accept checks  
my advice would be to  
wait until such time  
M.O. are available -  
SHG

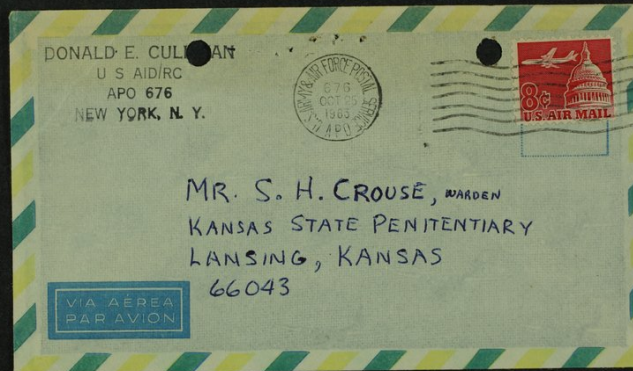
Donald E. Cullinan  
USAID/RC  
APO 676  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CENTRAL FILE

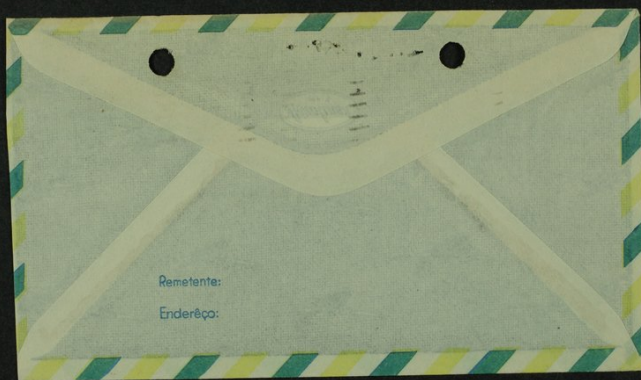
OCT 29 1963

WARDEN'S OFFICE  
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file



## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file



## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

*See DN*

NAME SMITH PRISON 14747 DATE 10-17-63

1. THE GRASS HARP AND A TREE OF NIGHT. APPROVED BY THE WARDEN: 10-17-63.

2 BOOKS. 1 ROCKS AND MINERALS. 1 THE GRASS HARP AND A TREE OF NIGHT.

1 BOOK. BORN UNDER SATURN.

APPROVED BY THE WARDEN: 10-17-63.

(CONTROL FILE)

LOANED: *Smith 14747*

*Lt-Bulir*



## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

KSP No. 196

KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY  
Lansing, Kansas

Inmates Release Schedule (Staple Photo Here)  
(Per G. O. No. 44)

To All Departments Concerned: Date October 14, 1963 Time: .....

1. Inmate SMITH, Perry Edward, Register Number 14747, by reason of  
Rel-in-Chg US District Ct Topeka, Kansas will be eligible for release from  
October 17, 1963 (Thur) to arrive for 8:30 am hearing  
this Institution .....

If Subject is wanted, state by whom: .....

Approved: William J. Barker Approved: K. L. Harton  
Record Clerk Deputy Warden

2. Inmate's Funds:

Personal funds: \$.....	Authorized Gratuity \$.....
Given on release: \$.....	Check mailed - amt. \$.....

Chief Clerk: .....

3. In order to comply with the Release Procedures, the above named Inmate will on the day  
previous to release, be escorted by an Officer assigned by the Captain, to the Departments  
in the order listed below:

Library: .....  
Educational Department: .....  
Clothing Room (Records only): .....  
Receiving and Discharge: Wm. H. Hutchins  
Hospital: .....  
Escorting Officer: H. Bailey

4. Governor's Pardon, Governor's Parole, Conditional Parole or Parole Certificate, Final  
Release Papers and Personal Property delivered.  
By: Wm. H. Hutchins  
Receiving and Discharge Officer

5. Identification by: .....  
Record Clerk

6. On the morning of release the Inmate will be escorted by the Discharge Officer to the  
office of the Chief Clerk, where he will be given his funds. (On Sundays and holidays this  
section will be completed at the Deputy Warden's Office).  
Chief Clerk: .....

7. Received into my custody the above named prisoner from the Warden of the Kansas State  
Penitentiary, Lansing, Kansas, for and under the Detainer noted in part 1, and also received  
the sum of ....., personal funds of the above named Inmate.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

DEPUTY WARDEN'S OFFICE

NAME: SMITH NUMBER: 14747 DATE: 10-10-63

I, THE ABOVE NAMED INMATE, RECEIVED FROM THE DEPUTY WARDEN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES  
IN GOOD ORDER THIS DATE.

1 BOOK. THOREAU ON MAN AND NATURE.

APPROVED BY THE WARDEN: 10-10-63.

(CENTRAL FILE)

Signed: *St Berlin* Smith 14747  
(LAST NAME & NUMBER)

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

*Seq*

DEPUTY WARDEN'S OFFICE

NAME: SMITH NUMBER: 14747 DATE: 10-12-63

I, THE ABOVE NAMED INMATE, RECEIVED FROM THE DEPUTY WARDEN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES  
IN GOOD ORDER THIS DATE.

1 5x7 PHOTOGRAPH OF 14747 SMITH.

APPROVED BY THE WARDEN: 10-12-63.

(CENTRAL FILE)

*Lt Berlin*

SIGNED: *Smith #14747*  
(LAST NAME & NUMBER)

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

KSP No. 1

**INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**  
Kansas State Penitentiary

From Office of: Deputy Warden Date: 10-9-63

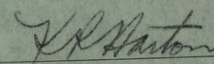
To: Captain of the Guard Subject: Inmates out to Court

Request that arrangements be made to have the below named inmates ready to appear in the United States District Courtroom, Post Office Building, Topeka, Kansas at 8:30 A. M., Thursday, October 10, 1963. Departure from this institution should be approximately at 6:30 A. M..

KSP No. 14746 - HICKOCK, Richard Eugene  
KSP No. 14747 - SMITH, Perry Edward

Adequate security measures will be maintained at all times. These inmates will be returned to this institution immediately following their hearing.

cc: Warden  
Records Office (2)  
File

  
Kenneth R. Barton, Deputy Warden - Jlf

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

KSP No. 4

**INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**  
Kansas State Penitentiary

From Office of: The Warden Date: October 7, 1963

To: Captain of the Guard Subject: Inmates out to Court.

Please arrange to have the below named inmates ready to appear in the United States District Courtroom, Post Office Building, Topeka, Kansas at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 9, 1963:

HIGGON, Richard Eugene, KSP No. 14746  
SMITH, Perry Edward, KSP No. 14747

Adequate security measures will be maintained at all times. Inmates will be returned to the institution immediately following their hearings.

CC: Deputy Warden  
Records Office  
File

*Greenah Union*  
S. H. CHOUSE  
Warden

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

KSP No. 196

KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY  
Lansing, Kansas

Inmates Release Schedule (Staple Photo)  
(Per G. O. No. 44)

To All Departments Concerned: Date 10-11-63 Time

1. Inmate SMITH, Perry Edward, Register Number KSP-14747, by reason of Rel-In-Chg; US Dist. Court, Topeka, Kansas will be eligible for release from this Institution October 12, 1963, Saturday; to arrive for 8:30 a.m. hearing

If Subject is wanted, state by whom:

Approved: William J. Barker Record Clerk Approved: W. H. Kitchin Deputy Warden

2. Inmate's Funds:

Personal funds: \$.....	Authorized Gratuity \$.....
Given on release: \$.....	Check mailed - amt. \$.....

Chief Clerk:.....

3. In order to comply with the Release Procedures, the above named Inmate will on the day previous to release, be escorted by an Officer assigned by the Captain, to the Departments in the order listed below:

Library: .....  
Educational Department: .....  
Clothing Room (Records only): .....  
Receiving and Discharge: Wm H. Kitchin  
Hospital: .....

Escorting Officer: W. H. Kitchin

4. Governor's Pardon, Governor's Parole, Conditional Parole or Parole Certificate, Final Release Papers and Personal Property delivered.

By: Wm H. Kitchin  
Receiving and Discharge Officer

5. Identification by: .....  
Record Clerk

6. On the morning of release the Inmate will be escorted by the Discharge Officer to the office of the Chief Clerk, where he will be given his funds. (On Sundays and holidays this section will be completed at the Deputy Warden's Office).

Chief Clerk:.....

7. Received into my custody the above named prisoner from the Warden of the Kansas State Penitentiary, Lansing, Kansas, for and under the Detainer noted in part 1, and also received the sum of ....., personal funds of the above named Inmate.

Date Signature:..... Title:.....  
County:..... State:.....



## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

KSP No. 196

542

KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY  
Lansing, Kansas

Inmates Release Schedule (Staple Photo Here)  
(Per G. O. No. 44)

To All Departments Concerned: Date October 7, 1963 Time: .....

1. Inmate.....SMITH, Perry Edward....., Register Number...14747....., by reason of  
Rel-in-Chg US District Ct Topeka, Kansas..... will be eligible for release from  
this Institution ..October 9th 1963 (Wed) to arrive for 8:30 am hearing.

If Subject is wanted, state by whom:

Approved: William L. Larkin Approved: Nobe  
Record Clerk Deputy Warden

2. Inmate's Funds:

Personal funds: \$.....	Authorized Gratuity \$.....
Given on release: \$.....	Check mailed - amt. \$.....

Chief Clerk: .....

3. In order to comply with the Release Procedures, the above named Inmate will on the day  
previous to release, be escorted by an Officer assigned by the Captain, to the Departments  
in the order listed below:

Library: .....  
Educational Department: .....  
Clothing Room (Records only): .....  
Receiving and Discharge: Rush .....  
Hospital: .....

Escorting Officer: .....

4. Governor's Pardon, Governor's Parole, Conditional Parole or Parole Certificate, Final  
Release Papers and Personal Property delivered.  
By: Rush .....  
Receiving and Discharge Officer

5. Identification by: .....  
Record Clerk

6. On the morning of release the Inmate will be escorted by the Discharge Officer to the  
office of the Chief Clerk, where he will be given his funds. (On Sundays and holidays this  
section will be completed at the Deputy Warden's Office).

Chief Clerk: .....

7. Received into my custody the above named prisoner from the Warden of the Kansas State  
Penitentiary, Lansing, Kansas, for and under the Detainer noted in part 1, and also received  
the sum of ....., personal funds of the above named Inmate.

Date Signature: ..... Title: .....  
County: ..... State: .....



HABEAS CORPUS

D. C. FORM 10

### United States District Court

FOR THE

DISTRICT OF KANSAS

No. 3527 H. C.

To Sherman H. Crouse, Warden, Kansas State Penitentiary, Lansing, Kansas

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED, to have the body of Perry Edward Smith

by you restrained of his liberty, as it is said,

by whatsoever names detained, together with the day and cause of his being taken and detained,  
before the Honorable George Templar, Judge of the United States  
District Court for the District of Kansas, at the court room of said  
Court, in the City of Topeka, Kansas at 8:30 o'clock a. m., on the 9th  
day of October, 1963, then and there to do, submit to and receive whatsoever the said  
Judge shall then and there determine in that behalf; and have you then and there this writ.

WITNESS the Honorable George Templar

United States District Judge at Topeka, Kansas  
this 4th day of October, A. D. 1963,

Charles W. Cahill

Clerk.

By *Henry Packard*  
Deputy Clerk.



HABEAS CORPUS

D. C. FORM 10

### United States District Court

FOR THE

DISTRICT OF KANSAS

No. 3527 H. C.

To **Sherman H. Crouse, Warden, Kansas State Penitentiary, Lansing, Kansas**

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED, to have the body of **Perry Edward Smith**

by you restrained of his liberty, as it is said,

by whatsoever names detained, together with the day and cause of **his** being taken and detained,  
before the Honorable **George Templar**, Judge of the United States  
District Court for the District of **Kansas**, at the court room of said  
Court, in the City of **Topeka, Kansas** at **8:30** o'clock **a.** m., on the **9th**  
day of **October**, 19**63**, then and there to do, submit to and receive whatsoever the said  
Judge shall then and there determine in that behalf; and have you then and there this writ.

WITNESS the Honorable **George Templar**

United States District Judge at **Topeka, Kansas**  
this **4th** day of **October**, A. D. 19 **63**,

**Charles W. Cahill**

Clerk.

By

*Henry Packard*  
Deputy Clerk.

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

October 3, 1963

Mr. Donald E. Cullivan  
USAID/EC  
APO 676  
New York, New York

Re: SMITH, Perry Edward  
ESP No. 14747

Dear Mr. Cullivan:

Reference is made to your letter of September 18, 1963,  
addressed to Governor Anderson.

This is to inform you that your name is being placed on  
the approved correspondence and visiting list. A copy of our  
correspondence and visiting rules is enclosed for your inform-  
ation and guidance.

Your interest in Smith's welfare is most appreciated.

Very truly yours,

*S. H. Grouse*  
S. H. GROUSE  
Warden

SHC:hes

CC Mr. O. E. Stites, Pardon Attorney  
Mr. Robert J. Kaiser, Director of Penal Institutions  
Director of Classification, ESP

**CENTRAL FILE**

OCT 4 1963

**WARDEN'S OFFICE**  
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF PENAL INSTITUTIONS

TO: Warden Crouse


DATE: 9-27-63

FROM: Robert J. Kaiser, Director

RE: PERRY EDWARD SMITH

I am referring for your decision, a request from Donald E. Cullivan to correspond with Perry E. Smith.

He indicates he is a water engineer in Brazil, testified as a character witness at the trial, but his letters have been returned.

  
ROBERT J. KAISER

RJK:dja

CENTRAL FILE

OCT 4 1963

WARDEN'S OFFICE  
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF PENAL INSTITUTIONS



STATE OF KANSAS  
11th Floor, State Office Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

September 27, 1963

Mr. Donald E. Sullivan  
USAID/RC  
A.P.O. 676  
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

Your letter to the Governor concerning correspondence with Perry E. Smith has been referred to me, and I am in turn sending it on to the Warden at Lansing for decision.

This may sound like a buck-passing program, but we must all accept the fact that institution officials are in the best position to make such decisions and we rely upon their advice in matters of who shall be permitted on the approved correspondence list. Under the unusual conditions of operating a penal institution, the number of persons on such an approved list must necessarily be limited, and many factors must be included in consideration of developing a list of correspondents.

You may rest assured that your letter will be considered by the Warden and his staff and the wishes of Smith in this matter will likewise be ascertained. I am quite sure he is corresponding with other persons, has had visits and contacts with attorneys. The latter are currently pursuing a habeas corpus petition through the federal courts and a hearing is scheduled in the United States District Court on October 9.

Yours truly,

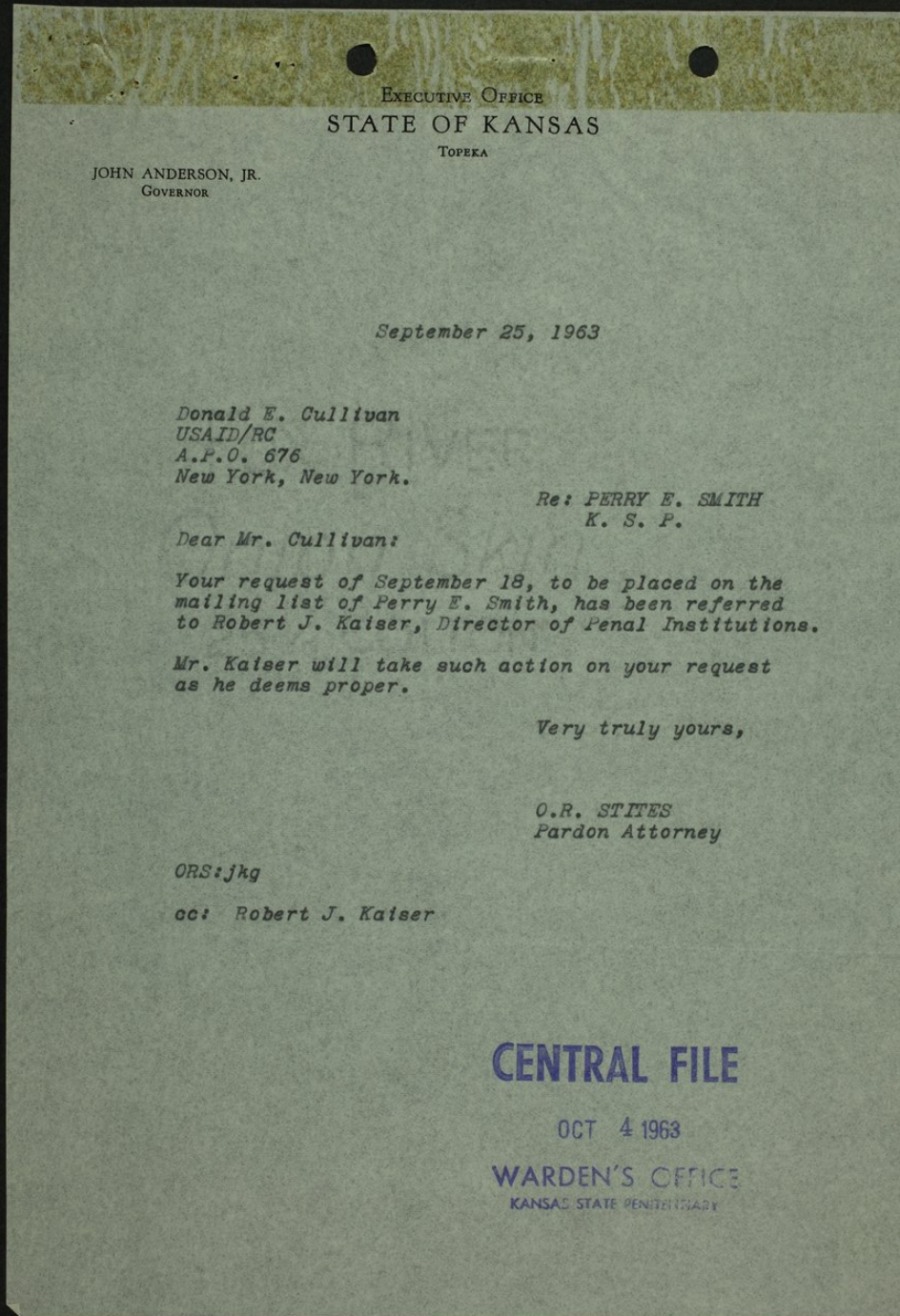
CENTRAL FILE

OCT 4 1963

RJK:dja  
WARDEN'S OFFICE  
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY  
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

ROBERT J. KAISER  
Director of Penal Institutions

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file



## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

RECEIVED  
SEP 24 1963

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DONALD E. CULLIVAN  
USAID / RC  
APO 676  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1963

Dear Governor Anderson:

Although I do not live in your state I would like to place before you for your consideration the following petition:

"That as an act of kindness, the name of Donald Cullivan be added to the authorized mailing list for state prisoner Perry E. Smith, now awaiting execution at the state penitentiary in Lansing, Kansas."

Following is a brief account of my reasons for making this request.

I first met Perry when we were in an army engineering unit together at Fort Lewis, Washington. We served together for about three months and we enjoyed a casual friendship. In 1960 I was working as a consulting engineer in Boston, Mass., when I read about Perry and the crime he had committed.

I wrote him while he was awaiting trial at Garden City and we exchanged letters for a month or so before the trial. I then received a letter from Perry's lawyer asking me to appear at the trial as a "character" witness. He advised me that there were no funds to pay for the trip but I went to Kansas using my own money. My appearance on the witness stand was about as brief and as futile as I expected it would be.

However, during my 3 days in Garden City I had several long talks with Perry which solidified our friendship. Following his conviction I returned to Boston and he was taken to Lansing to await execution. Perry was allowed to send me a Christmas card last year but my letters to him are returned to me.

I am now living in Recife, Brazil, working as a water supply engineer for the "Aliança for Progress".

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

(2)

Because of this I am almost completely out of touch with news about Perry and about his series of appeals.

I have no illusions about Perry's guilt and I am all too well aware of the horrible nature of this crime. But he is still a human being, and, in many ways, a remarkably gifted one, as well. He was a man without a friend when I first wrote to him over three years ago. If you will permit it, I would like to renew that friendship now by being permitted to write him.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Sullivan

CENTRAL FILE

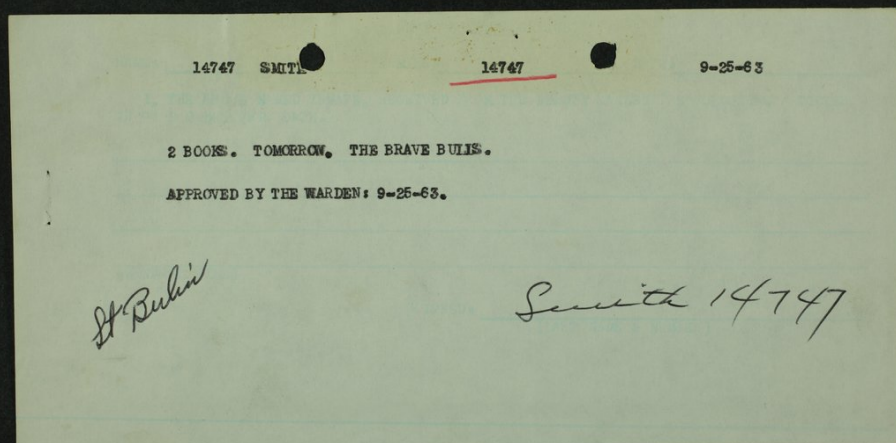
OCT 4 1963

WARDEN'S OFFICE  
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY



Removed from public  
view in accordance with  
access restrictions of  
K.S.A. 45-221(a)(29)

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file



## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

DEPUTY WARDEN'S OFFICE

NAME: SMITH NUMBER 14747 DATE 9-19-63

I, THE ABOVE NAMED INMATE, RECEIVED FROM THE DEPUTY WARDEN THE FOLLOWING  
ARTICLES IN GOOD ORDER THIS DATE.

1 BOOK. MODERN VERSE.

APPROVED BY THE WARDEN: 9-19-63.

Lt. Rubin  
CENTRAL FILE

SIGNED: Smith 14747  
(LAST NAME & NUMBER)

## Perry Edward Smith inmate case file

KSP No. 1

**INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**  
Kansas State Penitentiary

From Office of: The Warden Date: September 5, 1963

To: #14747 SMITH Subject: World Map

The map is being sent to you through the Deputy Warden.

**CENTRAL FILE**  
SEP 6 1963  
WARDEN'S OFFICE  
KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY

*S. H. Grouse*  
S. H. GROUSE  
Warden