



AUG. 7, 1890: THE FIRST EXECUTION BY

ELECTRIC CHAIR

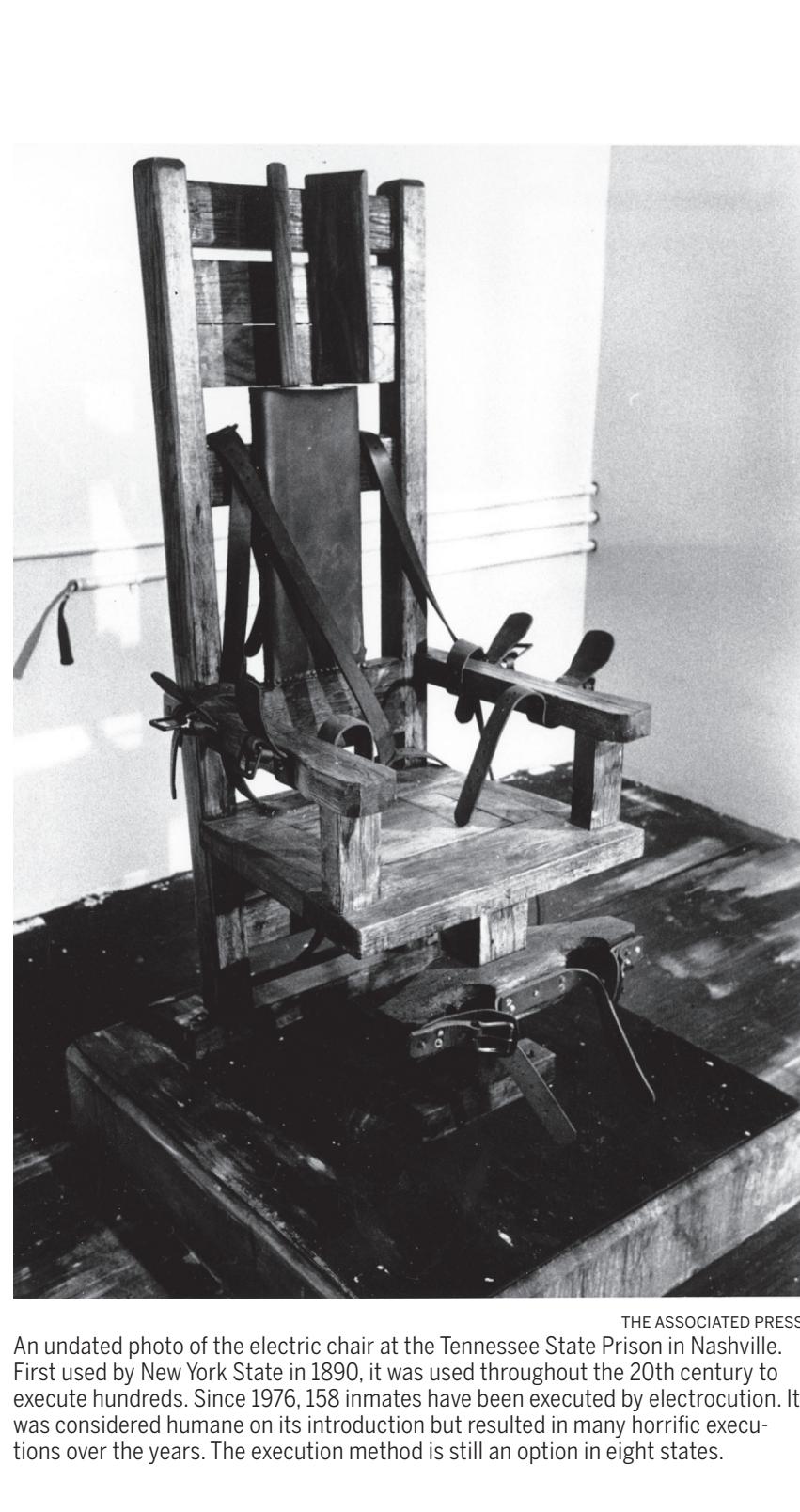
William Kemmler, who had been convicted of murder and sentenced to

death, was the first person executed by electric chair. The execution took place in Auburn, N.Y.

The electricity was turned on for 17 seconds, but it was not enough to kill him.

seconds, but it was not enough to kill the condemned man. Another shock lasting considerably longer was administered

until witnesses could smell the burning and there was no doubt he was dead.



First used by New York State in 1890, it was used throughout the 20th century to execute hundreds. Since 1976, 158 inmates have been executed by electrocution. It was considered humane on its introduction but resulted in many horrific executions over the years. The execution method is still an option in eight states.