

Arraignment Of Suspects Set In Alien Torture Case

BISBEE (AP) — A tentative arraignment date of Sept. 20 has been set for a prominent Douglas businessman and his two sons, who are accused of torturing three illegal aliens from Mexico.

George Hanigan and his two sons — Patrick, 22, and Thomas, 17 — were charged by a grand jury with 14 counts of assault with a deadly weapon, kidnaping, robbery, conspiracy to commit assault and conspiracy to kidnap in connection with an Aug. 18 incident.

They were to be arraigned last Tuesday, but Cochise County Superior Court Judge Anthony T. Dedders excused himself, citing a long acquaintance with the elder Hanigan.

Three Mexican nationals — Eleazar Ruelas Zavala, 24, Manuel Garcia Loya, 25, and Bernabe Herrera Mata, 21 — told authorities they were stripped, beaten, branded and pelted with buckshot near the Hanigan home. They said the incident occurred shortly after they had illegally slipped into the United States from Mexico.