

# Cochise Jury Indicts 3 In Alien Torture Case

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BISBEE — A Cochise County grand jury returned a 14-count indictment yesterday against a Douglas rancher and his two sons on charges of kidnaping and torturing three Mexican aliens.

County Atty. Richard Riley said the indictments named George W. Hanigan and his sons, Patrick, 22, and Thomas Henry, 17. All three were served with summons late yesterday to appear in court Sept. 7.

The charges include kidnaping while armed, conspiring to kidnap three Mexicans, assault with a deadly weapon, conspiring to rob one of the men while armed, robbing a second while armed and conspiring to assault each of the three.

The indictments came after the jurors had

listened to five hours of testimony from the investigators and the victims whose testimony was translated by an interpreter. Officials declined to disclose the charges, citing the secrecy of the indictment.

The victims, escorted to the jury room by deputies, were not allowed to speak to newsmen. Newsmen from several Mexican newspapers and radio and television stations also waited outside the jury room.

Superior Court Judge Anthony Deddens denied Riley's request for warrants for the three indicted, and instead issued a summons for them to appear before him Sept. 7.

Riley told the judge that "the subjects of the indictments are the subject of a great deal of concern to our neighbors to the south, the Republic of Mexico, so warrants should be issued."

The case involves three aliens who said they were bound, slashed with a knife, beaten and tortured when they crossed the border Aug. 18. The alleged victims are Eleazar Ruelas Zavala, 24, of Agua Prieta, Mex.; Manuel Garcia Loya, 25, of Chihuahua, Mex., and Bernabe Herrera Mata, 21, of Durango, Mex.

Cochise County Sheriff's Sgt. Richie Martinez had said that Hanigan, a ranch owner and businessman, and his sons were under investigation.

The victims have identified the Hanigan ranch as the site of their ordeal, officials said.

Martinez said sheriff's deputies went to the Hanigan ranch and found "things of evidential value."

Garcia was the only one of three with a visible sign of injury, a white patch bandage on the right side of his head.

State Atty. Gen. Bruce Babbitt and an assistant, Stan Patchell, were here to observe the proceedings at Riley's request, Patchell said.

An unidentified representative from Mexico City also was here as an observer, but did not enter the jury room.



**Victims Of Torture** — These Mexican citizens have testified before a Cochise County grand jury that they were bound, slashed with a knife and beaten at a Douglas ranch. From left, they are Eleazar Ruelas Zavala, Bernabe Herrera Mata and Manuel Garcia Loya. (AP Photos)