

FATAL BEATING OF W.S. MOFFITT CONFESSED



The Weather

Overcast today, becoming partly cloudy Wednesday.
Sunset today 8:13 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 6:22 a.m.

Established 1873

ROSEBURG, OREGON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1948

194-48

The News-Review

E. J. Moser Admits Part In Slaying

F. S. White, Named As
Accomplice, Denies Role;
Deed Yields \$30 Booty

Murder charges were prepared today against two Roseburg men for the hold-up and fatal beating of 80-year-old Willis S. Moffitt last Friday night, District Attorney H. A. Canaday said.

The men were named as Elmer Jesse Moser, 37, father of five children and resident of Roseburg since the early 1930's, and Francis Stanley White, 41. They were arraigned this afternoon on the charges in the justice court of Thomas C. Hartfield. Both waived preliminary hearings and were bound over to the grand jury. They were committed to the county jail, where they will be held without bail.

Moser last night signed a complete confession of his part in the robbery and brutal attack on Moffitt. Chief of Police Calvin H. Baird said. In his confession, Moser implicated White as the instigator of the robbery, the chief stated.

From a description given by Moffitt before he died, city police arrested White early Saturday morning. Moser and his wife, Emma, were picked up Sunday afternoon, charged with drunkenness and held for questioning. Moser and White were both seen in the company of Moffitt Friday night as they made their way from tavern to tavern, Chief Baird said. Robbery was the motive for the fatal beating, he asserted.

Victim Robbed of \$30

Moffitt told an attendant at the Eugene hospital where he was taken, that his attackers had taken \$30 from him. He was left in a semi-conscious state in the alley between Stephens and Pine streets, south of Flood St., where he was later found by passersby. He died Sunday night.

Mrs. Moser is being held in the county jail as a material witness, although she is not believed to be implicated in the murder, Baird said. She pleaded innocent to the charge of drunkenness and bail has been set at \$100. Moser was convicted of drunkenness and sentenced to 30 days in the county jail.

Chief Baird said another material witness, Raymond Eugene Meyers, is being held and also is charged with a parole violation.

White has refused to admit any knowledge of the hold-up, the chief said. After questioning by the chief and State Police Sgt. (Continued on Page Three)

New YMCA Camp To Rise At Diamond Lake

Construction of a new YMCA camp at Diamond Lake will be started next week on a 20-acre site leased for 10 years from the Forest Service. It was reported by M. M. Nelson, supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest. The camp is a project of the Medford Young Men's Christian Association, but may be used by other Southwestern Oregon cities.

Permanent buildings at the camp will include a combination dining hall and administration building, infirmary, 15 to 20 cabins, a director's house, water system, baseball diamond, swimming beach and other recreational facilities. Bill Parke, specialist in recreation planning, will discuss the camp with Forest Service officials here this week.

Former Treasury Aide In Spy Inquiry Passes

FITZPATRICK, N. H., Aug. 17. —(AP)—Harry Dexter White, 56, former assistant secretary of the Treasury, died here yesterday. White was a Treasury Department monetary expert for a dozen years before he became assistant treasurer of the United States.

White's name came up during the recent congressional investigation of Communist spy rings in the United States. Elizabeth T. Bentley testified that he had given information to Red agents. White denied the accusation.

GOP Victory Expected By Socialist Candidate

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 17. —(AP)—Norman Thomas says it will be "close to a miracle" if Gov. Thomas E. Dewey and Gov. Earl Warren aren't elected as Republican president and vice-president. The Socialist candidate for president told reporters he believes the Republicans are going to have a hard time holding both Houses of Congress, however, and that the Democrats are likely to hold the balance of power.

Levity Fact Rant By L. F. Reizenstein

Not all reckless handling of the truth is confined to a single government matter. President Truman says the nation faces a \$1 1/2 billion fiscal year deficit. Republican Senate leaders declare on the other hand that the nation is actually assured of nearly a \$6 billion surplus. Who is juggluing figures? ...

Zone Change Proposal Given To Planners

Widening of Two Streets
Also Considered; Paving
Of E. Washington Asked

Roseburg's City Council last night referred back to the Planning Commission the proposal to change from residential to industrial the area bounded by Oak and Spruce streets and the Umpqua River. Reading of the prepared ordinance was delayed for further Planning Commission study.

Mrs. Anna Wofford, who operates a rooming house at 530 West Oak Street, attended the meeting and voiced her objections to the proposed change. She said that while she would not object to a quiet industry in the vicinity, she would oppose any change that would permit establishing an industry that produced a great amount of noise.

Several other items were also referred to the Planning Commission. Among them was a move to widen Military street between Oak and Corey and the widening of Mosher street from Main to Stephens. The commission will be asked to consider widening of both streets at its meeting next Monday night, and if its action is favorable, a special council meeting will be called by Mayor Fiegel, probably the next day, for council action.

Councilman Percy Croft, street committee chairman, reported estimates he had received reveal that Military and Mosher streets could both be widened to a 40-foot paved width at roughly \$6400 each, provided asphalt paving was used, but that an estimate showed that concrete slab paving for Military would run the cost in excess of \$8,000. If asphalt were used and the bids were favorable, the council has sufficient funds to cover both projects this year.

Another matter referred to the Planning Commission was a proposal to improve Terrace Avenue, south of Lane street, an estimated three blocks, with proper surfacing and gutters to carry off the water.

Paving Requested
A petition bearing the names of all the property owners affected was presented by Vic Micelli asking for the paving of East Washington Street east of Chadwick the same width as the present street. Micelli stated he also wished to have the paving extended and would give a deed to a right-of-way to the top of the hill, but objected to an over-all street width of more than 40 feet. He said he proposed eventually to extend the street over the hill. The matter was referred to the Planning Commission for a report.

A petition bearing the names of several residents along South Main street requested that "no slow" signs be placed at the intersections of Main with Rice, Roberts and Thompson, and that a school crossing be painted, but referred to the street committee for further study the "slow" signs proposal.

Decision was made to write the State Highway Commission stating the city's stand requesting that right turns be permitted off Stephens Street onto East Second Avenue South without waiting for the green light at this intersection. How this would be controlled would be left up to the commission.

Motor Bicyclist Loser In Hitting Pedestrian

CLEVELAND, Aug. 17. —(AP)—A pedestrian came out on the top here in a clash with a motor bicycle.

Archie Crane, 38-year-old used car buyer from Cleveland, Tenn., picked himself up unhurt last night after being struck by the cycle, but cyclist Quinton Snow, 17, was hospitalized with lacerations and a possible concussion.

(Continued on Page Four)

Boxing Card Off

Tonight's scheduled boxing card in the Roseburg Armory has been cancelled. It was announced this morning. Reason for the cancellation is that Promoter Rudy Schlotthauer was unable to secure an opponent for Kenney Cass, slated to appear in the six-round main event. Cass, a local boxer, was to have met a Portland fighter.

Spying Facts Hiding Laid To President

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17. —(AP)—Rep. J. Parnell Thomas (R-N.J.) today accused President Truman of trying to "conceal" from the people the facts on Communist spying.

In a statement, Thomas also said the House Un-American Activities committee has reports of "still another espionage ring" not yet mentioned in Capitol Hill hearings.

As committee chairman, Thomas got out his statement while the committee itself was reported seething with a behind-the-scenes row over a "leak" of information on a closed session. One member said some one—a committee member or staff aide—had "violated an oath."

Thomas' statement said the committee already has made shocking disclosures about "the activities of Communist agents who have been funneling vital and secret information of our government to Moscow for the benefit and advantage of a foreign power."

He added: "Why the people have not been informed of these espionage activities can be answered only by President Truman, for I happen to know that there is locked in the files of the executive branch of the government, the complete story and full facts of this sordid chapter in our history."

Why the President has seen fit to attempt to conceal this information from the public can only be answered by himself."

'Red Herring' Rebuked
President Truman twice has said the committee's spy hearings (Continued on Page Three)

Husband Shows Speed, Agility in Fleeing Wife

BALTIMORE, Aug. 17. —(AP)—Neighbors watched last night as a man dashed out of the rear door of a police station, jumped a four-foot fence, galloped across a lot, cleared another four-foot barrier, and disappeared.

They waited for pursuing officers to come shooting. But nothing happened. Police explained the man was a fugitive from his wife—not from them.

They said a woman had been around to the station earlier in the evening to help them find her husband, whom she feared was out drinking.

They found him, and brought him back for a reconciliation. But at the sight of his spouse he made for the exit.

At last report police were not looking for him. But his wife was.

Youth Pinned by Boulder In Creek is Rescued

VANCOUVER, B. C., Aug. 17. —(CP)—Eleven-year-old Douglas Rodgers today nursed head-to-toe bruises suffered late yesterday when a 700-pound boulder rolled down a creek bed and pinned him in the shallow waters.

Faint cries from the helpless lad attracted R. R. Keay, nearby West Vancouver resident, who feverishly dug away the creek bed gravel and pulled him out from underneath the rock. His face was only partially out of the water.

Young Rodgers suffered no internal injuries and was returned home after hospital attendants treated his bruises.

Butcher Hog Prices At North Portland Record

PORTLAND, Aug. 17. —(AP)—Butcher hog prices reached an all-time high for the North Portland livestock market today—\$33.00.

Thirty-three 208-lb barrows and gilts were sold at that figure. This was up from \$32.50 the old mark, yesterday. Feeder pigs were up to \$34.00, the price reached yesterday.

Pays \$50 Fine After Thug Robs Him of \$15

DETROIT, Aug. 17. —(AP)—It cost Willie Solomon, 27, more to summon police than he lost to the thug who robbed him of \$15. Solomon was fined \$50 for trying to get officers to the scene in a hurry by pulling a fire alarm.

Truman Signs Credit Curb Bill, Raps It

Law Just Tiny Fraction
Of Need, President Says;
Republicans Hit Back

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17. —(AP)—President Truman signed into law last night the credit curbs law he called only "a tiny fraction of what we need" to fight inflation.

But when the new restrictions on time payment buying and on bank reserves will go into effect remains to be determined.

Some version of the old one-third-down-and-only-15-months-to-pay rule probably will return some time next month.

The Federal Reserve board said it will lay down all the rules and fix an effective date later this week, probably Friday.

The board will administer the anti-inflation bill passed by the special session of the Republican-dominated both Congress earlier this month.

Mr. Truman accompanied his signature of the bill with his promised blast of criticism at the lawmakers. And GOP chiefs came right back at him. There was a familiar ring to the arguments from both sides.

'Feeble Response'
The President said the bill represents only a "feeble response" to the demands of the people for strong measures to restrain the rising cost of living.

He said there is a right way and a wrong way to fight inflation.

The right way, he insisted, would have been to give him power to reimpose price, wage, rationing, profit and other wartime controls.

The wrong way, he went on, is to let the plain people bear the brunt of inflation's burdens, "while special interests reap the benefits of excessive prices."

"We have heard a lot lately from people who advocate this method," the chief executive declared, but "I do not believe that we should fight inflation by putting the average American family through the wringer."

Republican Strike Back
Chairman Milligan (R-COLO.) of the Senate Finance Committee called Mr. Truman's original anti-inflation program a "parcel of egregious error misdirected to a peacetime America devoted to its (Continued on Page Three)

Italian Reds Ordered To Be Faithful to Moscow

ROME, Aug. 17. —(AP)—Italian Communists were told today to toe the party line and be faithful to Moscow and Stalin.

A resolution in a party directive published in today's issue of the Communist party newspaper L'Unita also called for vigilance against "the dishonest, spies and provocateurs" trying to penetrate Communist ranks.

It demanded "elimination from our files of the unworthy who have been able to insinuate themselves into it."

Italy's Communists were warned in today's directive that they stand in peril of severe punishment if they act upon their own initiative "against the political line of the party."

Babe Ruth, Baseball's Most Famous Slugger, Dies After Long Illness

NEW YORK, Aug. 17. —(AP)—Babe Ruth is dead. The one-time Yankee slugger, wasted by two years' illness and almost constant pain, died of cancer of the throat last night. He was 53.

Throughout the Babe's long illness the exact nature of his ailment had not been disclosed, not even to Ruth.

A priest who administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic church said "the Babe had been prepared since July 21 for his death."

R. Quam Named Field Executive Of Scout Council

Appointment of Rolland Quam as field executive of the Oregon Trail Boy Scout Council has been officially announced by J. R. Bruckart, area scout executive.

Quam will reside in Roseburg and serve in Douglas District as well as carry council responsibilities. He comes here from the Portland Area Council, where he has completed two and one-half years as field executive. Previously he served in Montana for three years.

A graduate of the 93rd National Training School Council, he has been in Scouting from Tenderfoot rank through Eagle and has been both an assistant scoutmaster and scoutmaster in Minnesota. He took his college training at Concordia College, Missouri. Quam, his wife and three children will move to Roseburg at an early date. He will take over his duties as field executive Sept. 1.

A special dinner meeting of the Douglas District Committee was held Friday night at the Rose Hotel. The new field executive was introduced by Roger Bates, council Scout executive. Following the dinner meeting Quam met with committeemen and unit leaders of the Douglas District at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Morrell Packing Plant Facing Tilt With Union

OTTUMWA, Ia., Aug. 17. —(AP)—Production operations again were on a fractional basis at the strife-ridden Morrell Packing Plant here today but the company denied union contentions that there had been a "lockout."

"There is work here for any employee who will conform to the instructions of his supervisors," a company spokesman said in reply to union assertions that its members had been "ordered home."

The company was out of the hog market for the second straight day. It contends the CIO Packing House Workers union has engaged in "sudden strikes" and "slowdowns" four days in succession.

URANIUM FOUND

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., Aug. 17. —(AP)—Discovery of uranium in a lode of "hopeful quantities" has been disclosed by the City and County Chemist, Fred B. Greusel.

A cattleman, Albert D. Marshall, found the ore, vital to the manufacture of the atomic bomb, in Marshall Canyon, north of Beaumont, Calif.



RENO EXPLOSION SCENE—At least five were killed and more than 125 persons treated for injuries following a fire and explosion in three 50-year-old buildings in downtown Reno, Nev. Firemen and rescue workers are shown searching the debris for bodies while fire still burns fiercely in background. Many of those injured were spectators. (AP Wirephoto)



BABE RUTH
Loses Long Battle

Butcher Joins In Campaign to Cut Retail Meat Price

PORTLAND, Aug. 17. —(AP)—Butcher J. A. Remboldt has joined the housewives in their fight to bring down the price of meat for the family dinner.

The retailer said he would offer all cuts at 59 or 49 cents a pound the rest of the week or as long as he can obtain meat.

Pork, lamb and bacon will be included, too, Remboldt declared. "I'm going to cooperate with the housewives."

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 17. —(AP)—The men who sell the meat were singing the blues today almost as loudly as the housewives who buy it.

The Evening Bulletin said a survey of Philadelphia meat packers, slaughterers and jobbers showed that many dealers are finding business so bad they would close shop if they didn't expect some improvement by fall.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 17. —(AP)—Mama's OPA today modified its campaign to pull down meat prices after a week-long boycott had failed to dent the high cost of living.

From now on, Mama's OPA—the San Francisco Council of Women Shoppers—announced, instead of buying no meat its members will pay no more than 65 cents a pound for any kind of meat.

During the boycott two downtown markets engaged in a price war, with some cuts reduced as much as 44 cents a pound. Otherwise prices generally held.

60 Hurt, Two Critically As Train Leaves Rails

RUGBY, N. D., Aug. 17. —(AP)—About 60 persons were injured when ten cars of the Great Northern Railway's westbound Oriental Limited left the tracks near this Northwestern North Dakota town last night.

Thirty-five of the injured were brought to the hospital here, listed as in critical condition. About 25 others were given first aid at the scene of the accident.

Harold Stassen Plans Another Oregon Tour

SALEM, Aug. 17. —(AP)—Harold E. Stassen, former Minnesota governor who sought the Republican nomination for president, will come here again next month to meet with Republican leaders.

The announcement was made by Steve Anderson, chairman of the Young Republican Club of Oregon.

Anderson said Stassen would make a brief tour of the state.

Chicago Barbers Boost Haircut Price to \$1.25

CHICAGO, Aug. 17. —(AP)—It's going to cost Chicago men \$1.25 for a haircut, come Monday.

The Master Barbers Association announced the bad news after tabulating votes in a poll of its membership. The association said the vote was 931 to 415.

It'll be \$1.50 on Saturdays. Shaves go up to 70 cents. Present haircut prices are \$1, shaves 65 cents.

U. S. Flier Killed When 'Chute Fails to Open

WEISBADEN, Germany, Aug. 17. —(AP)—An American Air Force fighter pilot was reported killed today when his parachute failed to open after he bailed out of an F-47 Thunderbolt about 30 miles north of Munich.

School Budget Boosts Offset By Decreased Millage Levies

Although the budgets for Douglas County, Roseburg and School District 4 are greater this year than for any previous year, the millage levy will actually be lower than that for last year, because of increased valuation, a report from County Assessor Ned Dixon reveals.

The total 1948-49 levy for Roseburg taxpayers will be 56.5 mills, compared with 60.6 mills for 1947-48.

The county valuation is listed at \$42,464,190 for 1947, with a county levy of 5.6 mills, compared with \$49,465,125 for 1948 and levy of 4.8 mills.

The Roseburg valuation has climbed from \$5,882,535 in 1947 with a millage levy of 20 mills to \$6,758,770 in 1948 and a millage levy of 15.6 for 1948.

School District 4 valuation for 1947 was \$8,258,530 and millage levy 35 mills, compared with \$9,923,610 and millage levy of 36.2 for 1948.

A comparison was made by Dixon with the millage levy of Bend's total tax levy of 11.6, and that of Redmond, 91.6.