

# Four-Day Ott Hearing Proves Hottest Court Action In County For Long Time

By LLOYD ROGERS Staff Writer, News-Review

For nearly four full days this week one of the hottest courtroom battles seen in Douglas County in years has been waged.

It has not been a criminal trial—no crime has been charged. It has not been a lawsuit. Technically there have been no plaintiffs, no defendants.

What has been going on has been a hearing in the matter of the dependency of three children. This has been heard by Circuit Judge Charles S. Woodrich presiding over juvenile court. The hearing is over. Only the judge's decision remains unknown and it will not be given until he has considered the testimony and evidence piled up in the four days.

There has been no plaintiff—only a petitioner, Dist. Atty. Avery W. Thompson, who has asked the court to permanently remove three children from a home. He alleged in his petition and throughout the hearing that children in the home have been mistreated.

Reputations Defended. There has been no defendant—at least not technically, although in reality there has been. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ott have been defending their right to keep their children and have been defending their reputations as parents.

The three principals in the dependency matter never made a courtroom appearance. They are Timothy, 19 months old, a Korean orphan adopted by the Otts; Michael, 6½, and Rebecca, 5, also adopted by the Otts.

Thompson's petition alleged that the Ott home "by reason of neglect and cruelty on the part of... Edith Ott, is an unfit place for children."

During the hearing he produced witnesses whose testimony was aimed at proving this contention. Any mistreatment of children was absolutely denied by the Otts. Witnesses whose testimony claimed the Otts have been loving, understanding parents were brought into the court by their attorneys, J. V. Long and Robert G. Davis.

Three Not Neglected. Although Thompson seeks to have Timothy, Michael and Rebecca taken from the Otts, there has been no claim by anyone in the course of the hearing that these children ever were mistreated or neglected.

It was Thompson's contention in his arguments before Judge Woodrich that other children who have been taken into the Ott home have been mistreated. He claimed the acts of cruelty were aimed at the "sickly" and the adolescents who show "a mind of their own." He asked the court to consider what would happen if one of the three named in the petition became crippled or reaches adolescence.

Davis, in his final argument, declared, "We categorically deny that the children have ever been mistreated." He said the treatment of children taken into the Ott home "would do credit to most natural parents."

Four children were alleged to have been mistreated, and two of these came into court to recite stories of purported acts of cruel punishment which had been inflicted on them.

Daughter Testifies. One of these was Suzanne Ott Barrow, natural daughter of the Otts. She claimed to have been beaten by her mother and claimed to have seen an adopted child, Gregory, also abused. On one oc-

casional, she testified, she was bearing across the back with a long stick until she ran from the house. Davis maintained that Suzanne's testimony was unworthy of consideration because she is "unstable" and changed her story from what she had told him before she discovered she had become important to the state. Then, Davis declared, she was made the "star witness" who flew in from Sacramento to the flash of newspaper cameras.

The other witness who claimed to have received mistreatment was Mrs. Jean Edwards Barrow who told of being placed by the welfare department in the Ott home along with her two sisters, Janet and Laurene. She said her sisters had been well-treated but she had been beaten with sticks and had been forced to eat half a bar of soap.

Girl Said Untruthful. Mrs. Ott denied forcing the girl to eat any soap and said she had merely given Jean a small piece of soap and told her to wash her mouth out with it. She said it was done because of the girl's tendency to tell untruths.

Any treatment of Gregory was denied. Davis brought out testimony to show that the boy had received extensive and expensive medical treatment and had only been released by the Otts when they decided he needed more personal and experienced care than they could provide. The boy had undergone surgery to his head and had never fully recovered. It was brought out. The Otts testified Gregory was slow to learn and could not "keep up" with the other children so they felt would benefit if he were placed somewhere where he might receive more individual attention than they could provide with the other youngsters in the home.

The fourth child alleged to have been hurt either through mistreatment or neglect was Wendy Kay, a Korean orphan adopted by the Otts. This child, 22 months old, was described by the Otts as "frail" and one who had difficulty eating.

Evidence Circumstantial. Nobody appeared in court to testify that the Otts had been seen mistreating Wendy. The claims by Thompson were supported largely by circumstantial evidence.

Pictures taken of the child's body were introduced as evidence and showed what appeared to be numerous scratches and bruises. Two large bruises on the youngster's head were claimed to have been discovered when she was brought to the mortuary June 14.

Dr. J. M. Boyles took the stand and testified about being called to the Ott home by Mrs. Ott who said she thought the child was dead. He said he arrived and found Wendy lying on the bathroom floor and had examined the child. The doctor told the court he had later examined the baby at the mortuary. Death was attributed to suffocation brought about by vomiting.

Thompson said the bruise on the back of Wendy's head was never explained by Mrs. Ott nor were other injuries. She had testified that the youngster had taken a fall on the sidewalk the morning of her death but admitted she had not seen the fall. She had heard Wendy cry, she said, and had found her lying on her back.

Davis pointed out that the Otts have had 14 children in their home in the last nine years and that the district attorney has picked out every bump, scratch and illness and attributed them to Mrs. Ott. To do this would paint a black picture for anyone raising children, Davis stated.

Davis declared that the Otts have been subjected to character assassination. He stressed that he didn't "think the state has a right to take children from them on the basis of conjecture."

The law requires proof and there is none here, Davis argued. "That is what Judge Woodrich will have to decide. And he said he feels that all evidence had been produced and that he has no reservations about the evidence produced. 'If I did I would ask for more,' he told the attorneys. He assured them he 'will give it my undivided and earnest attention and render a decision as soon as I can.'"

Brothers At Camas Valley Visit First Time In 17 Years

By MRS. WILLIAM BANKS Visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Shepard in Camas Valley recently were Mr. and Mrs. Arie Shepard of Michigan, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Shepard of Minto and Mrs. Barron White of Redding, Calif.

It was the first time in 17 years the two brothers, Claude and Arie, had seen each other, and the first time Mr. and Mrs. Arie Shepard had been to Oregon. Mrs. White is a sister of the Shepards. The Michigan visitors were impressed with the size of some of the Douglas fir trees in the area.

Visitors. Mrs. Russell Anderson of Tacoma, Wash., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Cunningham, spent several days recently visiting her parents and friends in Camas Valley and surrounding area. She left early this week for Coos Bay and will visit her sister in Vancouver, B.C., before returning to Tacoma.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heffele of Brookings were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cunningham in Upper Camas last week. Heffele is the brother of Mrs. Cunningham.

Emma and Shirley Harvey and Donna Holder drove to Dead Indian Soda Springs last weekend. The girls are attending the Methodist Youth Camp there. They returned by way of Grants Pass and visited the Ivan Bridges family at Hugo.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Thomas have sold their interest in the Wilbur Garage to Robert and Gary Nichols who took possession last week. The Thomases and daughter, Stephanie, plan a trip to the coast before making future plans.

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Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Howard and children of Eureka, Calif., spent the Fourth of July weekend here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sands. The children stayed here to spend the rest of the summer with their grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Johnson and children of Kent, Wash., were weekend guests at the home of her sister, Mrs. E. B. Christie.

FIRE MINOR. Winston-Dillard rural firemen answered a call to the home of Rosa Heinbach Friday at 4:25 p.m., but the fire was out when the department arrived.

No damage was reported in the fire which burned three or four shingles near the edge of the roof, firemen said. Cause of the fire on the roof of the two story frame building has not been determined. Firemen added the house is located on Brockway and Kent Creek roads.

UNIDENTIFIED SUB. WASHINGTON (AP)—The Navy said Saturday its Alaska Command relayed word that a captain of a commercial vessel reported Friday seeing an unidentified submarine within the three-mile territorial waters of Alaska.

## BLM Timber Tracts Sold

Three tracts of green and four tracts of salvage timber were offered at oral auction by the Roseburg Bureau of Land Management office Friday.

Six of the tracts, containing an estimated 3,964,000 board feet, were purchased for a total of \$103,439.85. One green tract, involving an estimated 6,403,000 board feet, appraised at \$166,633.95, received no bid.

Mr. Baldy Buys. One tract located northeast of Elkton and containing 630,000 board feet, was purchased by Mt. Baldy Lumber Co. of Drown for \$15,859.20. Douglas fir brought \$26 per thousand board feet.

A second tract, located at the head of Stout Creek, containing 2,177,000 board feet, was purchased by the Bate Lumber Co. of Grants Pass for \$63,660.50. The bid on Douglas fir was \$29.50 per thousand feet.

A third tract, containing 778,000 board feet, was purchased by C and D Lumber Co. of Roseburg at the appraised price of \$14,363.45. This sale was in the Canyon Mountain area near Canyonville.

A fourth tract, located south of Reston involving 96,000 board feet was purchased by Iverson and Schroeder of Roseburg for \$2,160. Douglas fir brought \$22.50 per thousand.

Clayton Successful. Another tract, located near Camas Valley, contained 172,000 board feet. It was purchased by George Clayton for \$4,318.50. He paid \$28.25 per thousand for the Douglas fir.

The last tract, also located near Reston, contained 111,000 board feet. It was also purchased by Clayton for \$3,069.10. Douglas fir brought \$28 per thousand.

Other qualified bidders or participants in bidding at the auction were Rydell Logging Co. of Drain, Patton and Thompson, Skeels Logging Co. of Roseburg, Round Prairie Lumber Co. of Roseburg, Wallace and Hurd, Fred Fitzgerald, R. M. Cameron, E. R. Fitzgerald and the Jim Gene Logging Co.

Information regarding the availability of the no-bid tract mentioned above may be secured from the office of the district forester at 2533 W. Harvard Ave.

The next regularly scheduled sale has been set Sept. 2.



NEW PERSONNEL at the Veterans Administration Hospital are shown left to right. They are: George W. Possee, social worker; Dr. D. M. Bramwell, ward physician; and Dr. Harold Dickman, psychologist. Story page 3. (VA Photo)

## Indian Payments Not To Be Public

PORTLAND (AP)—Per capita payments to Northwest Indian tribes no longer will be made public, Don C. Foster, Portland area director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, announced Friday.

Foster said the policy change was requested by resolution of the Warm Springs Indians, although similar requests had been made "from time to time" by other Indian tribes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The Warm Springs resolution said that "publicity of such payments is not advantageous to either the tribe or the individual members... and it is the feeling of the Tribal Council that such publicity should be curtailed."

The bid followed the adoption of a unanimous declaration of principles claiming it is the right of American citizens to gather news anywhere in the world "except where military necessity plainly prevents."

The declaration said that newsmen, as agents of the public, must have free access to information and must be permitted to move freely to any news source. This, they said, applies both at home and abroad.

The editors also heard chief counsel Robert F. Kennedy of the

## Talks Loom To Drop Ban Against Newsmen In China

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—President Jenkins Lloyd Jones of the American Society of Newspaper Editors says an assistant secretary of state has opened the door to talks on the State Department's policy of barring U.S. newsmen from Red China.

Jones, the editor of the Tulsa, Oklahoma Tribune, said Friday night the official suggested a representative of the society and the State Department meet in Washington Thursday to "discuss in some way the admission of correspondents to Communist China."

The State Department did not say whether this meant a change in the administration's policy of closing the door to Red China for American newsmen.

Victor Riesel, labor columnist crusader against labor racketeering who was blinded by an acid thrower, told the editors that if the McClellan committee investigation had not been started, "James Hoffa would have been the single most powerful individual in the United States five years from now."

Before the McClellan committee disclosures Teamster vice president Hoffa was regarded as Beck's logical successor. Riesel spoke by telephone from New York.

## Familiar Resident Dies In Roseburg

Arthur Long, 78, a well-known Roseburg man, died at his home on Pine Street Friday.

He was born Aug. 14, 1878, at Radnor, Ohio, and later moved with his parents to California. They came to Oregon by water when he was about 15 years old, settling first in Myrtle Point and Coquille.

The family moved to Roseburg in 1892.

Long operated a bicycle and harness shop here for more than 25 years. He was never married.

Surviving are a brother, Albert of Roseburg, a nephew, Daniel D. Weatherford of Roseburg, and a niece, Mrs. John Ives, of San Diego, Calif.

Funeral services will be held at the chapel of Long and Orr Mortuary Tuesday at 2 p.m. with the Rev. John Adams of the First Presbyterian Church officiating. Concluding services and vault interment will be in Civil Bend Cemetery.

## Russell Proposes Striking Section About Civil Rights Injunction

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Russell (D-Ga) Saturday proposed that the Senate strike out of the administration's civil rights bill a section under which the contents of subpoenas could be used to enforce all civil rights.

"I was never more serious in my life," Russell told his colleagues in offering three amendments to the House-passed bill the Senate is expected to bring before it officially next Tuesday.

Directed At Authority. Russell's principal amendment was directed toward deleting from the measure authority for the Attorney General to seek injunctions to stem the threat of or prevent violations of a wide variety of civil rights.

His proposal, however, does not affect another section of the bill which would give the Attorney General similar authority in cases involving voting rights. President Eisenhower has said the protection of the right to vote was his prime objective in proposing the legislation.

Russell, quarterback of Southern Democrats fighting the bill, proposed the changes as the Senate met in an unusual Saturday session to give members a chance to spread their views on the record.

No Objections. No Objections. Backers cleared a first hurdle Friday, when no objection was raised to a Senate vote late Tuesday on a motion by Sen. Knowland (R-Calif) to bring the bill up formally for action.

That did not foreclose the possibility of a Southern filibuster against the bill later. Much appeared to hinge on the results of compromise moves.

Sen. Gore (D-Tenn) said he is consulting with colleagues of both parties about a possible substitute for the administration bill.

Sen. Javits (R-NY) told the Senate there has been "an unfortunate amount of speculation about compromises" in the bill. "This is a very moderate bill," he said.

Ike At His Farm After Evacuation. GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP)—President Eisenhower arrived at his farm Saturday after taking part in a White House evacuation of helicopter which his military aides called completely successful.

The President pulled in at his country place at 8:40 a.m., having traveled by automobile from a secret command post where he spent the night. He was accompanied by his nine-year-old grandson, David Eisenhower, who also had been at the emergency headquarters.

Mrs. Eisenhower and two other grandchildren were expected to arrive at the farm from the President's Operation Alert headquarters later in the day.

Eisenhower spent just a few minutes at the farm then headed for the golf course at the Gettysburg Country Club.

Before leaving his emergency headquarters the President received over a special communications network the latest Federal civil defense reports on Friday's imaginary atomic bombings which "laid waste" several U.S. cities.

Former Roseburg Man Dies In Salem Today. George W. Leeper, well-known former resident of Roseburg, died in Salem this morning at relative's home. It was learned here.

The body will be brought to Roseburg for services and interment. Funeral arrangements will be announced later by Long and Orr Mortuary.

Member Of Pioneer Melrose Family Dies. Mrs. Laura Savage, well-known resident of Melrose and member of a pioneer Melrose family, died suddenly at her home this morning.

The body was removed to Long and Orr Mortuary. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

## Wilbur Family End Visit To Relatives In Midwest

By MRS. LEWIS BINTLIFF Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Carey and daughter Lois have returned to Wilbur after a month's vacation in the Midwest.

They visited her father and his sister in Central Nebraska, then drove to Bemidji, Minn., to visit Mrs. Carey's sister.

Coming home, they spent some time with the Allen Christie family at Bellevue, Wash. Mrs. Christie, Bonnie and Sharon returned with them and are staying with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Menzie Lee, at Wilbur.

Wilbur Man Entists. David Hamilton has enlisted in the Airborne division of the U.S. Army. He is presently waiting transfer from Fort Ord, Calif., to some other camp for specialized training.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Russworm have returned home after visiting relatives at Monroe and spending several days with her brother, Harris Gable and family, at Yakima, Wash.

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## Dillard Family Fish, Picnic At Grants Pass On Holiday

By ROSA HEINBACH Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Wade and children, and Mr. and Mrs. Leland Wade and son of Dillard, went to Grants Pass July 4 to join their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. William Boze and all went to Squaw Lakes Pass, 50 miles southeast of Grants Pass.

They went boating, fishing and picnicking for the day. The Alvin Wades returned to Dillard in the evening while the Leland Wades stayed overnight with the Bozes and took sightseeing tours of interesting points in that vicinity, returning to Dillard Friday.

Return From Vacation. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bratsch and son Gene returned home Sunday from a nine-day vacation visiting friends in eastern Oregon. They visited friends enroute at Oakridge and went to Stanfield, where they were guests for four days of Mr. and Mrs. Bart Grayman. Together they all went to Milton, Freewater to see the pea harvest. Wednesday they went to Prosser, Wash., to visit Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Gay-

man and joined in a large reunion. The Bratschs then went to St. Helens and visited her relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Maddan and families. On July 4 they all joined in a family reunion picnic at Long Beach, Wash.

Mrs. Rosa Lack spent several days last week in Medford visiting her friend, a former Dillard resident, Mrs. Nina Coon.

Mrs. Mercy Buell has been ill at her home the past week. Mr. and Mrs. Muri Watkins and Linda from Dora, Mo., who are visiting the latter's sister, Mrs. Earl Collins and family went to Grants Pass last weekend with her brother, Foss Culppepper, to visit.

Friends, Relatives Visit. Fourth of July holiday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Claiborne were the latter's sister, Mrs. Tom Lynch and family from Oakland, Calif., who were returning home from an extended trip to their former home at Boise and Jerome, Idaho. They also visited at Salt Lake City, Utah, Mr. and Mrs. Lynch have returned to California where he is employed at the Mars Island Navy yards.

Other guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Claiborne last week were her sister, Mrs. Kenneth Lohner and family from Sacramento, Calif. They were on a vacation trip to visit a cousin in Portland, friends in Seattle, Ephrata and Spokane, Wash., and relatives at Jerome and Boise, Idaho.

Mrs. Robert Boutwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Claiborne, who has been visiting them from Alabama went to Portland with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Lohner, to attend to business. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Collins entertained the latter's sister, Mrs. Muri Watkins and family from Dora, Mo., last week. Also joining the party was her brother, Foss Culppepper, from Rogue River. On July 4 Mr. and Mrs. Earl Collins and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Watkins and Linda, Foss Culppepper and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Burleson and children joined in a reunion picnic at Tye where they formerly lived. On Friday Mrs. Wayne Davis and friends from Portland arrived at the home of Earl Collins to visit relatives.

Monday Earl Collins took all of his house guests on a fishing trip to Winchester Bay, Mr. and Mrs. Watkins and Linda left Tuesday to visit relatives in Idaho en route home.

Vet Of 2 World Wars Dies In VA Hospital. Harvey C. Heffernan, 60, a resident of Portland, died at the Veterans Administration Hospital here Friday. Born in California Aug. 31, 1896, he was a veteran of both world wars.

The body was removed to the Long and Orr Mortuary and was taken to Portland for services and interment.

BRIDGE COLLAPSES. CROSSETT, Ark. (AP)—A railroad bridge 10 miles north of here collapsed Saturday, hurling freight cars and wreckage on about 10 persons, who were fishing in the Saline River.

At least one person has been killed, three others were hurt and "three or four" others are trapped in the wreckage, Sheriff B. A. Courson reported.

Nuclear Blow Could Have Cost Portland Many Lives. SALEM (AP)—The simulated nuclear attack on Portland Friday morning would have cost 150,000 lives, the state civil defense agency reported.

Two bombs, part of Operation Alert 1957, would have caused an additional 40,000 severe injuries if the attack had been real.



A BOUQUET FOR KHRUSHCHEV — Russian Communist Party chief Nikita Khrushchev rubs his eye as he holds bouquet of flowers presented by Czechoslovakia children when he and Soviet Premier Bulganin arrived in Prague by train. The two leaders are on a good-will visit to the Communist-ruled country.


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