



# Police News/Vancouver

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## Fugitive to Finish Life Sentence for 1963 Murder

By JEFF BARNARD  
The Associated Press  
EUGENE— Though commending him for a law-abiding life out of prison for 27 years, a judge Friday sent a 70-year-old Oregon man back to California to finish his life sentence for a 1963 murder.

Lane County Circuit Judge Bryan Hodges said the legal issues facing Robert Lee Burns should properly be settled in California, where he was convicted of murder after his partner in a 1963 bank robbery killed a highway patrolman.

Family members sobbed and cried out "bye Bob, I love you," as deputies took Burns by the elbows, helped

him up from his chair, and led him out of the courtroom into custody.

Representatives of the California Department of Corrections were in the courtroom to take Burns back to California.

Defense attorney Dave Phillips implored the judge to grant a stay of extradition, arguing that sending Burns back to prison in California amounted to a death sentence because he suffers from cancer and heart disease.

Prosecutor Erik Hasselman countered that it was time for Burns to complete his legal obligations to California. Judge Hodges said he had not been looking forward to making this

decision and commended Burns for the upstanding life he has led while free.

"From your own testimony on all these events, you very clearly had to know you had unfinished business in California," Hodges told Burns.

Burns was arrested Jan. 4 after his name popped up on a computer wanted list. He was sentenced to life in 1964 after one of his partners in a Sacramento, Calif., bank robbery shot and killed a California highway patrolman outside Truckee, Calif., during the getaway.

The two others involved in the slaying have since been released from prison, and one of them has died.

Burns served only 4 1/2 years in California before he was transferred to Oregon to serve out the remainder of the robbery sentence. Oregon authorities deemed him fully rehabilitated. Then-Gov. Robert Straub refused in 1974 to send him back to California to finish his murder sentence.

Phillips argued that California failed to follow through on extradition attempts in 1982 and 1983 when Burns was arrested on a California fugitive warrant while doing business in Nevada and Alaska.

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling has since eliminated the right of governors to grant sanctuary.

## Enforcement Curbs Tobacco Sales To Minors

Illegal tobacco sales to minors are down after the state expanded undercover inspections to include most Oregon retailers.

"Enforcement and education are the key to decreasing illegal sales," says Jeff Ruscoe of the Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs in the Dept. of Human Services. "This year we've focused our efforts in both areas and now we're starting to see the results."

Since 1994, Oregon has conducted annual unannounced inspec-

tions at up to 750 randomly chosen stores across the state. During the visits, an underage teen accompanied by a retired state police officer attempts to buy tobacco.

The state recently expanded the program to include most retailers, an estimated 2,950 stores.

"Now every merchant expects at least one visit a year and it's making a difference," says Ruscoe.

Officials say their enforcement efforts show that minors are able to buy tobacco 17.5 percent of the time, down from 23.2 percent in

the previous year.

Although the rate of sales was the lowest in the seven years Oregon has inspected tobacco retailers, officials say there remains plenty of room for improvement.

"Under-age youth are still able to buy tobacco one out of six times," says Ruscoe.

He says that increased educational efforts are also helping reduce the illegal sales.

"Earlier this year we sent merchants a letter and other materials about inspections, local commu-

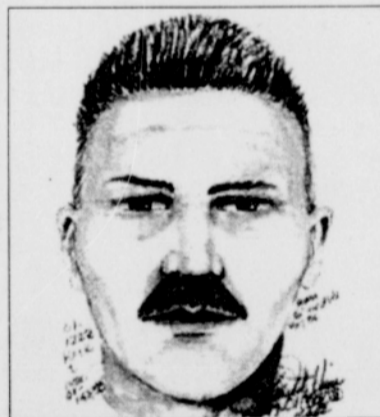
nity resources, and the state law.

Later this spring we'll launch a multimedia campaign for retailers on how to prevent sales to minors. The federal government wants Oregon to reduce the percentage of illegal sales to 25 percent in 2001 and to 20 percent by 2003. To avoid a \$6.4 million penalty for failing to reach an earlier goal, state legislators last year approved \$945,000 for expanded inspections and education. Clerks who sell tobacco to minor can be fined up to \$500.

## Police Look for Date Rape Suspect

Police believe a man drugged a woman he took on a date in Tualatin and possibly raped her before leaving without a trace.

They suspect the man slipped drugs into the 17-year-old Tualatin girl's drink on April 11th. Investigators said the man kidnapped the teen after the drug's effects made her helpless. The suspect is described about six feet tall and 170 to 180 pounds. Investigators think his name may be David. He is in his mid-twenties with brown hair and drives a green car.



Date rape suspect

## Stalker Proposes to Victim

(AP) - An alleged stalker retrieved a diamond engagement ring from evidence and proposed to the victim as she sat on the witness stand.

"Marry me. You mean everything to me!" John K. Flora, 46, told the woman in Clark County Superior Court. The woman, who dated Flora for eight months in 1976 and 1977, jumped up and fled after his outburst last week. Flora had been acting as his own lawyer and was handed the \$4,995 diamond and amethyst ring by the court clerk at his request while he was questioning the woman. He was tackled, handcuffed and shackled by officers, and the judge later convicted him of two counts of burglary and one of attempted kidnapping. He

could face six to eight years in jail.

"You're the worst kind of stalker," Judge Edwin L. Poyfair said. "You're the kind that doesn't understand when you're not wanted. Mr. Flora, you are a danger." Flora admitted he spied on the woman, followed her home from work and went through her trash. He said he only had a "romantic motivation" when he allegedly broke into her home Aug. 27 and then tried to abduct her on Sept. 2. Her mother ordered him to leave both times, grabbing a rifle to get him to leave the second time. The judge said that if he had any idea Flora was going to propose, he would have confined him to his chair. "It was my last hurrah, your honor," Flora said.

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### North Portland

Northminster Pres. Church  
2823 N. Portland Blvd.  
Wed. Downstairs 4:45 P.M.

Legacy Emanuel Prof. Office Bldg.  
2800 N. Vancouver Suite 105  
Mon. 12:00 noon

### Northeast Portland

Tillamook Park Building  
2108 N.E. 41 St. Ave.  
Mon. 7:00 P.M.  
Tue. 7:00 P.M.  
Wed. 9:30 A.M. - 12:00\* 5:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M.\*  
Thur. 9:30 A.M.\* 5:00 P.M.\* 7:00 P.M.\*  
Fri. 9:30 A.M.  
Sat. 9:30 A.M.\*

Temple Baptist Church  
1319 N.E. 7th  
Tue. Fireside Room 12:00 noon

Timberline Dodge  
2510 N.E. Sandy Blvd.  
Thur. Conference Room 12:00 noon

## Can you dig it?



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