

Jury Frees Overcross of Murder Charge

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Jurors Consider Case 24 Hours Prior to Verdict

By THOMAS G. WRIGHT JR. Staff Writer, The Statesman

Cap Overcross, the man almost no one wanted to see convicted, went free Thursday night.

It was the second time the lean-faced Silverton carpenter had been cleared of a murder charge since Ervin Kaser was found shot to death in his car last Feb. 17, but this time it was by the conclusive, unanimous vote of a hot, tired and solemn-faced jury.

Jury Foreman Mrs. Bessie Edwards read the verdict at exactly 5:26 p.m., just a 30 minutes short of 24 hours after the Marion County Circuit Court jury of nine women and three men began deliberation.

Overcross heard the verdict "Not Guilty" with little outward emotion, but tears moistened the eyes of many of the 44 spectators, most of them members of his family who were on hand for the jury decision.

Defense Attorney Bruce Williams hugged Overcross's shoulder at the verdict, almost it seemed to keep him from sliding back into the chair he had occupied during the 18 days of the trial.

When Circuit Judge George R. Duncan told Overcross he was released, he walked back to the second row of spectator seats and sat down with his relieved family. Then they all filed quietly out of the courtroom.

Some five minutes after the verdict Overcross, with daughter Colleen on one arm and daughter Karen on the other, walked out of the courthouse, presumably to a family reunion at the home of one of his sisters or his brother. All had kept an unbroken vigil outside the courtroom while the jury was deliberating.

Overcross, forever free of the charge of slaying Kaser, plans to stay a few weeks in the Silverton area with his family. Then he intends to find a job to prove himself to his daughters, his family and to the 12 jurors who acquitted him. He says he wants to work to provide a college education for Colleen and Karen. He didn't say whether his plans would take him back to Alaska where his car and his carpenter tools are.

Judge Duncan thanked the jury for its public service. "No other jury will be called on probably for many years to come to hear such a difficult case," he said.

Then the judge excused the jurors. Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Louise Franzen and Perry Baker, both of Turner, Harry Oldenberg of Jefferson, Mrs. Myrtle Rogers, Mrs. Delores Thronberry, Mrs. Doris McMullen, Mrs. Helen Taylor and Mrs. Norma Lawless, all of Salem, Mrs. Evelyn Beard of Aurora and Mrs. Margaret Edgell of Woodburn.

Defense attorneys Williams and Otto R. Skopel Jr. were jubilant over the verdict. District Attorney Kenneth E. Brown appeared satisfied that the long deliberation of the jury was indicative of careful consideration of all the evidence. Special Prosecutor Charles Raymond, contacted in Portland, said "The jury has spoken. We presented all the evidence available. Judge Duncan gave us a very fair trial."

At 5:28 p.m., only four minutes after the jury had filed back into the jury box, Judge Duncan recessed the court in the case of State vs. Casper Arnold Overcross.

(Additional details on page 5, sec. 2.)

87 Aboard as Plane Limp Over Pacific

HAMILTON AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)—A Strategic Air Command Globemaster landed here Thursday night with two engines dead after "sweating it out" for five hours over the fog-bound Pacific Ocean.

The big plane, a part of the Air Force's Operation Gyroscope, carried 87 men—eight in the crew and 79 members of the 187th Regimental Combat Team (Airborne) who are being transferred back to the United States by air from Japan.

The plane, which left Hickam Field, Hawaii, early Thursday, was due at Travis Air Force Base, Suisun, Calif., at 9:41 p.m. (PDT) It finally landed here at 9:08 p.m. escorted by all available rescue air craft in the Pacific Coast.

The long ordeal began at 4 p.m. 750 miles out when the oil line on one of the starboard engines of the 4-engine transport blew out. The engine lost so much oil it had to be cut out and the propeller feathered.

A few minutes later the plane radioed here that the one engine was out and another "acting up." By the time the plane landed here both starboard engines were out and the two left engines were "very rough" from the strain.

Capt. Theodore Roosevelt, a distant relative of both the late Presidents Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt, was commander of the plane. The Elyria, Ohio, officer drew high praise from the passengers and crewmen for his cool handling of the operation.

Roosevelt said that the two remaining engines had been running at top capacity for the last part of the trip and were "beginning to act up."

"I was deeply concerned that the magnetos might go," he said. "I was surely glad to get down for we were running on fumes as far as fuel was concerned."

The pilot reported that when the engines went out the plane lost altitude rapidly but when it settled down to heavier air near the ocean it was able to maintain altitude on the two remaining engines.

The passengers and crew members all threw out all personal belongings and all equipment except their rifles to lighten the plane.

Federal Board Seeks to Block Two Mergers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Trade Commission announced Thursday it was moving to block mergers in two fields:

1. The purchase by Farm Journal Inc., of Better Farming, formerly known as The Country Gentleman, which the FTC described as Farm Journal's leading rival in the agricultural magazine field.

2. The alleged acquisition by Union Bag & Paper Corp. of New York City of control of Hankins Container Co. of Cleveland.

The FTC described these as two of the nation's oldest paper product manufacturers and said agreements made between the two firms in June and July of 1954 violated the laws against interlocking directorships and unfair competition.

The FTC said Farm Journal ranks first in monthly net paid circulation in the agricultural, magazine field.

It said acquisition of Better Farming from the Curtis Publishing Co. would eliminate Farm Journal's "only effective or substantial competitor" and "may substantially lessen competition and tend to create a monopoly."

Air Academy Fund Rejected

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Thursday failed to approve money to start construction on the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colo.

The academy has been a matter of controversy since proposed designs for its buildings were unveiled several weeks ago. Critics, including many members of Congress, thought the designs too modernistic. The plans have been characterized as looking like "a supermarket."

The House Appropriations Committee recommended denial of an air force request for 79 million dollars to begin work on the academy.

Family Rushes to Congratulate 'Cap' on 'Not Guilty' Verdict



A relieved family, led by his two daughters, surrounded Casper Overcross Thursday evening when a jury returned a verdict of not guilty in his trial for the murder of Ervin Kaser, a one-time neighbor. Here left to right in the courtroom a few seconds after the jury decision was read are Overcross, his brother-in-law, Henry Anunson, daughters Colleen, and Karen, sister-in-law Mrs. Henry Overcross, and sisters Mrs. Lillian Anunson and Mrs. Ruth Schubert. (Statesman Photo by John Erickson.)

Khrushchev, Zhukov Also to Attend Meet

MOSCOW (AP)—Communist Party boss Nikita S. Khrushchev and Marshal Georgi K. Zhukov, defense minister, are going to the Geneva conference with Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin. The Premier said Thursday this means the Soviet delegation "is the very summit."

Khrushchev, Zhukov, Bulganin, Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov and Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko will make up the five-man Soviet delegation, the Kremlin announced.

The official announcement called this a "government delegation."

Khrushchev technically is not a member of the government, though he is a member of Parliament. His main title is that of secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

But he has been occupying an increasingly dominant role in Soviet affairs. At the same time, the recent prominence of Marshal Zhukov has indicated a strong rise in the influence of the Soviet armed forces.

Thursday night Khrushchev and Bulganin headed a group of leaders helping celebrate Bastille Day at the French Embassy. Reporters buttonholed both of them to inquire about the announcement made a few hours before.

"The composition of our delegation is the very summit," Bulganin said. "For instance, how could we discuss disarmament at Geneva unless Defense Minister Zhukov came along?"

Walter Walmsley, U. S. charge d'affaires, commented that army men might be more interested in arms than in disarmament, and the goateed Bulganin retorted:

"I do not think so. I have said before and I say again that nobody understands the terrors and hardships of war better than we soldiers. We know what war is."

(Bulganin was referring to himself and Zhukov. Actually, Bulganin is a "political" marshal, having received his rank from Stalin in recognition of wartime work far from the battlefronts.)

Sec. Dulles at Work in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Secretary of State John Foster Dulles arrived Thursday and went to work on proposals the Americans, British and French will put to the Russians when they meet "at the summit" in Geneva next week.

A U. S. spokesman refused to answer questions about what the proposals contain. It seemed certain French agreement must have meant inclusion of Premier Edgar Faure's plan for the big powers to cut slices from their defense budgets and pool these savings in a fund to raise living standards in poor countries.

Ike to Address Nation Tonight

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower made final arrangements Thursday to tell the American people of his hopes for the Geneva conference, and then to take off for the historic meeting.

The President will speak extemporaneously Friday night at 8:15 p.m. EDT, from the White House. All four TV networks plan to carry the 15-minute talk at the time of delivery. So will ABC and CBS radio. MBS and NBC will broadcast the speech at later hours.

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE
At Spokane 3, Eugene 4 (12 inn.)
At Wenatchee 3, Yakima 13
At Lewiston 6, Tri-City 4

COAST LEAGUE
At San Diego 0, Portland 3
At Sacramento 2, Seattle 7
At San Francisco 1, Hollywood 7
At Los Angeles 4, Oakland 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE
At Brooklyn 1, St. Louis 6
At Philadelphia 1, Milwaukee 7
At New York 3, Chicago 2
At Pittsburgh 1, Cincinnati 19

AMERICAN LEAGUE
At Cleveland 5, New York 4
At Detroit 6-3, Boston 0-7
At Chicago 13-5, Washington 4-2
At Kansas City 7-4, Baltimore 10-6

Senate Passes Ike-Backed Reserves Bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Thursday passed an armed forces reserve bill aimed at building up a combat-ready reserve of 2,900,000 men by 1960. Active reserves, including the National Guard, now number about 800,000.

The roll call vote was 80-1, with only Sen. Langer (R-ND) voting no.

Sens. Jenner (R-Ind) and Schoepel (R-Kan) answered "present" and Sen. Mansfield (D-Mont) said he was paired against the bill with Sen. George (D-Ga) who favored passage.

The Senate action virtually assures that President Eisenhower will get, at least in limited form, legislation he had tabbed near the top of his "must" list.

The House already has passed the bill but it will return there because of changes made by the Senate.

However, both Senate and House voted for a key provision of the Eisenhower program. This would permit youngsters aged 17-20 to volunteer for six months of active training to be followed by 7½ years of service as a reserve.

Audie Murphy Due in Portland For Vets Reunion

PORTLAND (AP)—Screen star Audie Murphy, America's most decorated soldier in World War II, arrives in Portland Friday for the 36th annual convention and reunion of the Third Infantry Division Society.

Murphy, a former company commander in the division, will view a special preview of his autobiographical movie "To Hell and Back" with society members.

The Weather

Salem Max. 88 Min. 54 Prec. .00
Portland 84 60 .00
Baker 88 48 .00
Medford 89 48 .00
North Bend 61 54 trace
Roseburg 90 58 .00
San Francisco 68 51 trace
Chicago 90 71 .00
New York 89 67 .00
Los Angeles 85 63 trace
Willamette River -1.6 feet.

FORECAST (from U. S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem):
Night and morning cloudiness, with some afternoon sunshine today and Saturday. Risk of light showers extending through the weekend. Continued cooler with high today near 77, low tonight near 52.

Temperature at 12:01 a.m. today was 57.
SALEM PRECIPITATION
Since Start of Weather Year Sept. 1
This Year Last Year Normal
32.45 45.14 29.23

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

Several weeks ago the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations created under an act of Congress filed its report with President Eisenhower. Unfortunately the filing date coincided with the final reports of the Hoover Commission. The latter reports embraced more controversial recommendations and so received fuller attention in the press and at the hands of editors and publicists. Actually this Intergovernmental Relations report is one of very high merit. It could very well be used as a textbook in administration in colleges and a handbook among public officials. It should be required reading for all the politicians who sound off on the subject of federal-state relations.

The Commission got off to rather a bad start. Its first chairman was Clarence Manion, former dean of the law school at Notre Dame. When he openly opposed administration policy on the Brickers amendment he was asked to give up his post on the Commission. His successor was Meyer Kestbaum, head of Hart-Schaffner and Marx clothing firm. The report surely reflects the change in the chairmanship. Dr. Manion was radical in his views of limiting federal powers. The report, however, is surprisingly moderate in tone, well-balanced in its treatment and in its judgments. One may find occasion to disagree with some or many of the specific recommendations but not with the temper of the document.

The historical summary is compact and informing. The evolution of our federal system is sketched, together with the shifts in powers made in the course of the years and the effect of judicial decisions (Continued on editorial page, 4)

Temperature Soars Again In Northwest

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Temperatures soared up to 106 degrees again Thursday in inland areas of the Pacific Northwest but the Weather Bureau said it would be a little cooler Friday.

Pasco recorded the highest thermometer reading, one degree below the 107 high of Wednesday. Ephrata had 105, and Walla Walla, 104.

Pendleton was high in Oregon with 103, matching Wednesday's high for the state.

What appears to be a three-day-only heat wave ended in the Salem area Thursday with a high temperature of 88, after a 91-degree high was experienced Wednesday and a high of 85 Tuesday.

A high of near 77 is predicted for today by McNary field weathermen.

At northern Oregon beaches, skies are expected to be cloudy this morning and partially clearing this afternoon.

With the increasing fire danger, there occurred three minor forest fires on state lands Thursday. One, caused by logging operations, occurred about 10 miles west of Amity and was extinguished. The other two, both controlled, were near Grants Pass and Monument in eastern Oregon.

ANIMAL CRACKERS

BY WARREN GOODRICH
W.W. Goodrich



"Emity, I love you for what you are. By the way, what are you?"

Hillcrest Riot Laid to Lack of Staff, Facilities

By CONRAD PRANGE Staff Writer, The Statesman
Ineffective security facilities and not enough housemothers were given Thursday as reasons for Wednesday night's destruction at Hillcrest School for Girls.

Eleven of the girl inmates wrecked part of Scott Hall in one of the state school's most spectacular disturbances.

The girls are now in Marion County jail.

"I need at least one more housemother on this (the maximum security) ward, so we can do a more adequate job of supervising the girls," said Marjorie McBride, superintendent, as she surveyed damage done in Wednesday night's riot.

Gaping Holes in Walls
Large holes, some two feet in diameter, gaped in room walls. Radiators had been ripped from walls. Lighting fixtures were smashed and doors to rooms were battered and some glass punctured. Other damage, such as flooding the floors with water, tearing up beds and mattresses, had all been cleaned up Thursday morning.

While this was going on, said another official of the school, the rest of the girls in Scott Hall were quiet and appeared to be "out of sympathy" with the disturbance. This official also said she had seen "lots worse" disturbances at the school in the past.

No estimate of the damage had been made by Thursday.

Reason Not Specified
Miss McBride said she was at a loss to underline a specific reason for the outbreak of violence among

11 girls housed in the ward, which is known at Hillcrest as the "treatment ward." Some of the girls go on a rampage once in a while,

she said, but not on such a destructive scale.

"For one thing," she said, "these rooms should be of such construction, metal or otherwise, so that they could not be demolished with materials at hand. Light fixtures, radiators and even beds should be

of the kind which cannot be smashed or ripped out."

Her words jarred on the otherwise peaceful atmosphere of the state institution for wayward girls Thursday afternoon. Girls, dressed in shorts or bathing suits, were playing tennis or sunning themselves on the green lawns. (Additional details on Page 2, Sec. 2.)



Although most of the debris had been cleaned up Thursday these big holes in room walls remained as evidence of the destructive violence Wednesday night at the State's Hillcrest School for Girls near Salem. Above is shown Statesman reporter Conrad Prange peering through a row of holes pounded through the plaster-hollow tile walls by girl inmates of the maximum security unit. (Statesman Photo.)

Plywood Firm Offer Rejected By Union Vote

PORTLAND (AP)—Plywood workers of five plants of the M & M Woodworking Co. Thursday rejected a back-to-work proposal by a 706-693 vote. They continued their two-week-old strike.

In Lyons, plywood workers voted opposite from the general vote. Their vote was 235 to 20 to return to work. Each plant, however, is bound by the overall vote.

Claude McCulley, spokesman for the joint collective bargaining board of the unions involved made the announcement after ballots from workers at Portland, Albany, Lyons, Idanha, and Eureka, had been counted.

The strike started when the company refused to renew the old contract without certain modifications. The union wants the contract unchanged.

The company proposal voted on Thursday was that the men return to work under pre-strike conditions and that negotiations continue for 30 days.

McCulley said the unions are "willing to meet" with M&M officials at any time for further negotiation.

Decision Split In Portland's Pinball Case

PORTLAND (AP)—Portland's pinball case ended Thursday with a split decision for the contesting parties.

Circuit Judge Charles W. Redding said city officials may go ahead and seize pinball machines but will have to defend the seizures in court.

Judge Redding overruled the city's demurrer that his court did not have jurisdiction over the case. He said he will hear evidence in the argument when he returns from vacation.

Meanwhile, the city is proceeding with plans to prosecute 15 pinball operators. Judge Redding refused to allow Lew Dunis, operator of Portland Amusement Co., an injunction to prevent the city from seizing machines on which coin slots have been removed.

Windows Smashed Instead of In-Laws

PORTLAND (UP)—John V. Stewart, 35, had 38 stitches taken in his hand after smashing out the windows of his home with his fist. He told officers sent to arrest him that he became infuriated at his wife's visiting relatives and smashed the windows rather than hurt the in-laws.

Club Raises Funds to Save Police Chief's Boy

EUGENE (AP)—Funds raised by the Drain Lions club will pay for a lifesaving operation for Gary Winslow, son of Drain Police Chief Elmer Winslow.

The boy, now in a Portland hospital, will be taken to the University of Minnesota Medical Clinic at Minneapolis for a delicate heart operation which doctors say is necessary if the boy's life is to be saved.

Today's Statesman

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