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## Court Rules Bird Hanging

OLYMPIA—(AP)—The State Supreme Court ruled this week that Jake Bird should hang for the slaying of Mrs. Bertha Kludt.

The high court in a 7-2 decision affirmed Bird's conviction of first degree murder in the Pierce County superior court. Mrs. Kludt was slain in Tacoma Oct. 30, 1947, with an axe and a knife.

The 47-year-old Negro transient has been in and out of the high court several times since his conviction fighting for his life.

Bird was unable to furnish the supreme court with a complete record of his trial in the lower court. He could not pay the cost and the lower court refused to furnish the record at county expense on the ground Bird had had a fair trial.

The two dissenting justices, John S. Robinson and George B. Simpson, said they felt the supreme court had no jurisdiction in the case since it did not have the complete record.

Bird had contended that his confession to the slaying had been obtained under duress. The high court majority said the testimony of four witnesses "who heard the confession supports the position of the state that the confession was voluntary." Bird knew what he was doing when he signed the confession, the majority said.

The court denied Bird's contention that a juror was prejudiced against him. It also said the trial court had not acted improperly in denying his plea for a change of venue.

"We are convinced by a careful consideration of the record before us that the contentions of Bird are without substantial merit," the majority opinion written by Justice William J. Millard said.

## Court Upholds Meyers Verdict

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The U.S. Court of Appeals Monday upheld the conviction of former Maj. Gen. Bennett E. Meyers who was imprisoned for inducing a wartime associate to lie to a congressional committee.

Meyers' conviction was upheld by a 2 to 1 decision. Associate Justice Elikah Barrett Prettyman dissented from the majority.

Meyers at present is in federal jail serving a 20 months to five years sentence.

Meyers, former No. 2 procurement officer in the Air Force, was found guilty specifically of inducing Blierot H. Lamarre to lie to a Senate war investigation subcommittee about Meyers' secret ownership of the Aviation Electric Co., Vandalla, O. Lamarre testified that he was only a \$60-a-week "dummy" president while Meyers pocketed big profits.

## Light Plane Crash Kills Pilot, Passenger

PORT ORFORD, Ore. — (AP) — The crash of a light plane here Sunday was fatal to Pilot Robert Repass and his passenger, Robert Irwin, both of Coquille.

State police reported Repass, who recently obtained his private pilot's license, rented the plane from Pacific Airways at North Bend.

The plane went into a dive from 500 feet altitude soon after taking off here about 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

## California Propositions

SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—The vote on California propositions (total precincts 18,802):

| Propositions                    | Precincts Reporting | Yes       | No        |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| No. 1—Veterans' Tax Exemption   | 16,437              | 1,630,769 | 1,710,475 |
| No. 2—Local Liquor Enforcement  | 16,053              | 1,077,481 | 2,363,523 |
| No. 3—Railroad Brakemen         | 16,536              | 1,691,230 | 1,628,379 |
| No. 4—Aged and Blind Aid        | 16,558              | 1,748,473 | 1,725,150 |
| No. 5—Legislators' Salaries     | 15,770              | 1,272,121 | 1,710,744 |
| No. 6—S. F. Bay Area Fishing    | 15,895              | 1,185,071 | 1,781,935 |
| No. 7—Residence of voters       | 15,482              | 1,948,474 | 882,637   |
| No. 8—Superior Court Vacancies  | 14,712              | 2,147,089 | 552,155   |
| No. 9—Governorship Succession   | 15,472              | 2,123,556 | 834,546   |
| No. 10—One Subject Initiative   | 15,688              | 1,798,976 | 866,611   |
| No. 11—Municipal Charters       | 15,486              | 944,534   | 1,599,066 |
| No. 12—Local Liquor Control     | 16,119              | 1,032,103 | 2,443,567 |
| No. 13—Senate Reapportionment   | 16,127              | 1,025,690 | 2,097,713 |
| No. 14—Housing Agency           | 16,016              | 985,171   | 2,182,677 |
| No. 15—South Coastal Fishing    | 15,617              | 1,040,583 | 1,962,200 |
| No. 16—Chiropractors            | 15,484              | 1,892,146 | 956,974   |
| No. 17—Civil Service Exemptions | 15,654              | 875,651   | 1,831,884 |
| No. 18—Tax Exemption Losses     | 15,711              | 1,182,624 | 1,558,152 |
| No. 19—Fish and Game Commission | 15,459              | 2,040,037 | 712,041   |

## Park Program Shows Progress

A progress report on the development of a system of municipal parks and playgrounds in Eugene was made recently at a meeting of the executive board of the Eugene Recreation Commission.

A \$120,000 program, to be financed through a special three-year levy, was approved by the voters of Eugene in the primary election last spring. Although this program is not expected to be completed in all areas until sometime in 1950, the executive board was told that work on the various park and playground projects has progressed as follows: 10th and Grant — 20 per cent completed; 15th and Fairmont — 20 per cent completed; 23rd and University — 65 per cent completed; 19th and Lawrence — 70 per cent completed; Siadden Park (Approximately one-half of total area on this park site is now available. Ninety per cent of the work on the available area has been completed.)

Don January, superintendent of parks and recreation, also submitted his report on summer recreation activity. The report showed that total 1948 summer recreation attendance on three playgrounds was 72,725. This total was compared to the 1947 playground attendance on seven acres which totaled only 47,648. In 1947, the city lured 24 recreation workers. In 1948, eight persons completed the summer recreation personnel.

The reason for the increase of attendance on fewer play areas was pointed out. The recreation

## Wallace Guest At Soviet Party

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Henry Wallace, whose futile bid for the presidency was keyed to friendlier relations with Russia, was among hundreds of guests at the Soviet Embassy's annual reception Sunday.

The affair also attracted Attorney General Tom Clark, Undersecretary of State Lovett, Eric Johnston, head of the Motion Picture Assn. of America, and scores of diplomats.

Wallace, Progressive Party leader, was among the first to show up at the reception which began late in the afternoon. He left early.

Soviet Ambassador Alexander S. Panyushkin, wearing a black diplomatic uniform, welcomed the guests. They were served turkey, ham, lobster, shrimp, salad, ice cream, vodka and other liquors.

The reception usually is one of the top social events in the capital. It commemorates the anniversary of the October Revolution in which Communists rose to power in Russia.

commission feels that more boys and girls and adults are now attending because play areas are properly designed for recreation activity. The largest attendance this summer was at the 19th and Lawrence playground.

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