

## 'Probable Suicide' Ruled

# Special Jury Ends Inquest

A verdict of "probable suicide" by an inquest jury has ended the controversy that grew out of the death of Eugene businessman Donald A. McDonald.

In a statement released Monday through Lane County Dist. Atty. William Frye, the jury said, "while accidental death is a possibility, the evidence most reasonably points to the probability that McDonald... took his own life."

Frye called the jury, equivalent to the old coroner's jury, when the county's medical investigator and Eugene police investigators failed to agree on the cause of McDonald's death. The jury heard 27 witnesses in 3½ days and announced the following conclusions Monday afternoon:

- That McDonald died Oct. 29 at 3600 Donald St., Eugene; and
- That "the cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning, self-administered by means of running a car engine in a closed garage and probably for the purpose of taking his own life."

McDonald's body was found in his car Nov. 10. The car was in the garage of a house at 3600 Donald St., Eugene, where McDonald had once lived.

McDonald, 33, was a former president of Liberty Television, Inc., which operates KEZI-TV in Eugene. He had sold his interest in the firm several months before his death.

Dr. Harold Lyman, the medical examiner, called the death a suicide, but at an unprecedented hearing Eugene police issued their decision that the death was accidental.

Lyman stuck to his determination, and Frye called the jury of inquest as "the proper way to resolve the question."

The jury began hearing testimony last Wednesday in secret sessions. Frye said he had not invited the public to the sessions because of the personal nature of some of that testimony.

"It was in the interest of common decency to confine the hearing to the departments and persons involved," Frye said.

The district attorney added that certain witnesses would not have given complete testimony in an open hearing, and

"the public will end up knowing more than it would have from an open hearing."

Of the controversy and the unusual calling of an inquest jury, Frye said he thinks "the experience will work to the benefit of the entire system (of death investigations) in Lane County."

The jury's statement said it had heard testimony that McDonald suffered "severe personal, marital and business disappointments... and had been under psychiatric care. Several years before his death he had attempted suicide and on several occasions more recently he had threatened or suggested suicide."

The jury gave this account of McDonald's actions on the night of his death:

He had been drinking in at least two Eugene night spots and was not in good spirits when he left the last place about 1:15 a.m.

He parked in the driveway of the house at 3600 Donald St. He walked to a bedroom window at the rear of the house, cut the screen with a paring knife, broke the glass and entered the house.

He entered the garage from the family room, closing the door behind him. Then he opened a garage door, drove his car in, got out and closed the garage door, and returned to his car.

The jury was told McDonald was found in the driver's seat of his car. The ignition switch was on and the gas tank was empty. The windows had been rolled down, although the garage was unheated.

Frye had said earlier that no signs of violence were found at the death scene.

Police Lt. Robert Lockard, whose investigation as a deputy medical investigator led to the police ruling of accidental death, was commended by the jury.

"His interest and highly professional attention to details led to valuable information being made available," the jury said.

By JACK WILSON  
Of the Register-Guard



MRS. CONNIE HELLAND  
To Lead Mothers

## Dimes March Head Chosen At Springfield

Lane County March of Dimes officials have announced that Mrs. Connie Helland, 1112 Sequoia Ave., Eugene, will serve as chairman of the 1963 Springfield Mothers' March.

Mrs. Helland, who is a resident of the Springfield school district, will direct the annual door-to-door fund raising program of the annual fund drive. The mothers' march, scheduled for Jan. 30, will be organized by elementary school districts, Mrs. Helland said, with each district under the direction of a "team leader."

This will be Mrs. Helland's first post with the March of Dimes, although she has participated in other fund drives and is choir master and on the teaching staff of St. John's Episcopal Church, Springfield.

She is a ninth grade teacher at Hamlin Junior High School, Springfield, where she is the head of the social studies department and is faculty advisor for student publications.

She and her husband have four children, Decker, Erick, Jim and Marta.

Chairman of the Springfield March of Dimes drive is Robert Boehmke, music director in the Springfield school district.

## Lane Legislators in Review—No. 6

# Elder's Interests Include Law Enforcement, UO

By DAN SELLARD  
Of the Register-Guard

One of the two Republicans which Lane County sent back to the Oregon House of Representatives in the November election is former sheriff Ed Elder.

He and Minority Leader F. F. Montgomery are outnumbered by the four Democrats who with them make up the county's delegation to the Legislature which convenes Monday in Salem.

A big man (6-feet, 3-inches tall and weighing 205 pounds), Elder will be serving his second term in the House.

In 1958, he almost chose to run for the U.S. Congress. Elder had announced his candidacy from the Fourth District for the seat then held by Charles Porter but bowed out

when State Sen. Edwin Durno decided to run.

At 42, Elder considers himself a conservative "somewhere between Rockefeller and Goldwater" and more so than the national Republican platform. He is a serious person to whom state problems loom big and all-important.

Elder was first elected Lane County sheriff in 1952 and re-elected in 1956. He didn't seek a third term.

Elder speaks for that wing of law enforcement, and in the 1961 session tried to get criminal investigation removed from the activities of Oregon State Police and given to county sheriffs.

(Another Lane County legislator, Rep-elect Gene Hulett, D-Eugene, a former state police officer, has said he will introduce a bill to do just the opposite this session—take all

criminal work away from sheriffs and give it to state police.)

Elder also has had a lot of interest in other law enforcement legislation, including fish and game.

This next session, he is proposing a compromise on an old legislative battle—what to do about the Pioneer Cemetery on the University of Oregon campus.

The university's attempts to move the graveyard so it could use the land always has ran into a lot of opposition. Elder is the proponent of the "float" a building above the cemetery which would be kept in a memorial park manner.

The proposal has generated much discussion, which pleases Elder. He points out that he has spent long hours of discussing the plan with many people before he made it public and feels fairly sure that his plan, or a large part of it, eventually will be a reality.

Elder was born in 1920 in Montana. He has lived in the Eugene area since 1926 and graduated from high school in Santa Clara. He is married and has three children.

He works for Oregon Automobile Insurance Co. in Eugene.

During the 1961 Legislature, Elder was one of several who incurred the wrath of some when he suggested that "more investigation" should be carried out on the circumstances surrounding the printing of a story in "Facets," a University of Oregon campus publication.

Elder said he was concerned over "how much these professors tolerate these stories—if they inspire them or if the students inspire them."

He had carefully studied the issue, he said, and wasn't happy about what he had found.

This is typical of Elder. He is serious and concerned about legislative matters.



ED ELDER AND SON STEVE, 13  
Always a Willing Chess Challenger

## CofC Elects Robert Cross As President

Eugene Insurance Man Robert Cross, 51, Monday night was elected 1963 president of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce, succeeding Attorney Ralph Cobb.

Cross is beginning his third year as a member of the chamber board of directors. He has served as vice president for the past year.

Also elected Monday were Glen P. Porter Jr., a partner in the accounting firm of Collins, Herzinger, Ray & Porter, vice president, and David J. Williams, assistant vice president with the First National Bank, treasurer.

Cross is a partner in Robert Cross Insurance, dealing in contract bond business as well as insurance. He has been in business here since 1944, and has been a member of the chamber since then. He is a native of Riverton, Wash., and is a 1933 graduate of Washington State College.

Cross is a member of the Oregon Insurance Agents Assn., the National Assn. of Surety Bond Producers, and serves as secretary and general manager of the Oregon Logging Conference.

He is past president of the Eugene Active Club and the Central Lane YM-YWCA and currently is president of the Eugene Council, Navy League.

Cross, his wife, Cecilia, and their son, Bruce, 18, live at 2295 University St. The Crosses have two grown children, Jim Cross, a student at the University of Oregon, and Mrs. Gary Armstrong of Pullman, Wash.

Cross Monday night said he expects to appoint new committees in the near future.

Directors-heard Chamber Manager Fred Brenne report that the chamber now has about 800 active members as the chamber enters its 68th year.

Directors agreed that two primary subjects of concern during the next 12 months will be downtown parking problems and a tourist promotion program.

## 4-H'ers Plan Conference

Lane 4-H'ers, 14 and older, will attend their own pre-legislative session during the third annual "4-H Conference on County Government" in Harris Hall, Eugene, beginning at 9:30 a.m., Saturday.

This year, the 4-H'ers will learn more of the subjects they hear under discussion at home—such as home rule charter, civil defense and medical help, the justice courts and duties of a medical examiner.

County officials, including commissioners, county health officer, and judges, will open doors of their offices to the young visitors and explain their jobs.

Originated in 1961, "the conference and the interest of county officials bring home every 4-H'er's pledge to good citizenship," says J. R. Gurton, 4-H extension agent.

The Saturday conference on county government is also the forerunner to the annual 4-H conference on state government, the agent adds. Two Lane 4-H'ers—a boy and girl who must be 16 or older—will be selected as delegates to the Salem conference, Feb. 6-9, and a behind-scenes visit to the Oregon Legislature.

Announcement of Lane County's delegates will be made on Saturday after interviews with all eligible 4-H'ers regarding their 4-H activities and experience.

## Eugene Register-Guard

SECTION B EUGENE, OREGON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1963



## New Deputy Starts Work In DA's Office

A new deputy district attorney went to work in the Lane County Courthouse Monday.

Mitchell A. Karaman, 27, a 1961 graduate of the University of Oregon law school, has been assigned to the criminal department, Dist. Atty. William Frye said Monday. He replaces John Osburn, who resigned last fall to enter private practice.

Karaman grew up in Portland and did his undergraduate work at the University of Oregon. A Marine Corps veteran, Karaman was employed in the trust department of a Portland bank before coming to the Lane County job. Karaman, his wife Patricia and their two sons live at 925 Norckenzie Rd., Eugene.

Frye said the addition of Karaman brings his staff to full strength of six deputies.

## Tax Information Available Now

The Eugene office of the Oregon State Tax Commission will be open week days until April 15 to help persons who have problems preparing their state income tax returns.

The office is located in room 306 of the State Office Building, 165 E. Seventh Ave.

During January, February and March, help will be given between 1 and 4:45 p.m. from Monday through Friday. After April 1, the hours will be changed to 8 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. The office will be closed on Feb. 12 and 22, which are state holidays.

## Vital Statistics

### BIRTHS

SACRED HEART HOSPITAL (Eugene)

(Jan. 7, 1963)  
DUFFY — Mr. and Mrs. Donald Duffy, 4250 Donald St., Eugene, a daughter.

PERROTT — Mr. and Mrs. Nick Perrott, Rt. 3 Box 251C, Eugene, a daughter.

CAMPBELL — Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Campbell, 4660 Franklin Blvd., Eugene, a son.

MORRIS — Mr. and Mrs. Richard Morris, 1825 Harlow Rd., Eugene, a daughter.

MCKENZIE-WILLAMETTE

(Springfield)

(Jan. 7, 1963)  
JONES — Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jones, 4765 W. M St., Springfield, a son.

PETERS — Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Peters, Rt. 1 Box 180, Springfield, a son.

### DEATHS

THOMASON — Norman L. Thomason, 70, of 1990 Empire Park Dr., Eugene, died Jan. 8. Services will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. in Poole-Larsen Chapel with interment in Sunset Hills Memorial Park.

WINFREY — Elzore Winfrey of Dexter died Jan. 7. Services are pending at Buell Chapel.

BARRETT — Kenneth Victor Barrett, of 2180 Henderson Ave., Eugene, died Jan. 7. Arrangements are pending at Buell Chapel.

LOVELADY — Thomas Allen Lovelady, 76, of 1945 N. Port St., Eugene, died Jan. 7. Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Buell Chapel with interment in Lane Memorial Park.

DICKENS — Elsie J. Dickens, 45, of 1802 S.E. Barnes Ave., Salem, died Jan. 7. Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Buell Chapel with interment in the Upper Mabel Cemetery.

RIGGS — Mae Riggs of 955 Chambers St., Eugene, died Jan. 8. Arrangements are pending at Simon-Lounsbury Mortuary.

## CD Gives Report On Shelter Marking

The shelter marking program in the Eugene-Springfield area is nearly completed, members of the Lane County Civil Defense staff were told at their annual meeting Monday night.

The marking of downtown Eugene buildings is virtually complete, Deputy Director Ernest Norris noted, and said that the University of Oregon will probably complete marking of campus buildings by early next week.

The 14 buildings marked in the city will provide shelter space for 11,670 persons, Norris said. The University will have another 16,000 spaces.

In addition, Director James

Koepe predicted that shelters will be placed in the J.C. Penny building in downtown Eugene, the new Equitable Savings and Loan building across the street, and at the new Big Y Market on W. Sixth Avenue, bringing the area's total shelter capacity to about 30,000 spaces.

"This is not too bad for the first year of the program," Koepe said.

Cleve Dumdi, of the Lane Extension Service, reported that the program to train medical self help instructors is "going good" and he predicted that about 4,000 people will be trained by May 1 representing every section of the county.

Dr. W. L. Holcomb, Eugene physician, next reported on various aspects of the medical service that will be provided by civil defense agencies in event of a disaster elsewhere in Western Oregon.

These will include sending surgical teams and aid stations to the periphery of the disaster area; handling an estimated 30,000 casualties through Eugene, which will act as a southwest Oregon distribution station; and the establishment of field hospitals in the area.

Holcomb said there are now two portable 200-bed hospitals in the area, and he is hoping to get another to store in South Eugene High School, and possibly a fourth for Cottage Grove if storage space can be found there.

## Meeting Notices

Tonight

ELKS DUPLICATE Bridge Club regular match point play at 7:15 p.m. at 2727 Centennial Dr., Eugene. Visitors welcome. For further information, call DI 4-6104.

TROPICAL FISH Club meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the home of George Elliott, 4390 Mill St., Eugene. Further information available by calling DI 3-9937 or RI 6-2313. Public welcome.

Wednesday

SENIOR ACTIVITY Center meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Celeste Campbell Recreation Center, Skinner Butte Park, Eugene, for sewing, cards and crafts, including weaving. All senior citizens welcome. Bring sack lunch.

EUGENE LODGE No. 11, AF and AM, special meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Eugene Masonic Temple, 992 Olive St., Eugene. Work in MM degree.

## Postage Due Pennies Slow Mail Routes

Letter carriers probably took a little longer getting around their routes Tuesday because of the new postal rates which went into effect Monday.

Postmaster Ethan Newman of Eugene said there was "an awful lot of postage due" because people mistakenly mailed letters at the old rates.

Newman said that if a carrier delivers 1,000 letters, he could expect to have 25 postage due letters included and this means 25 stops to ring doorbells and to collect pennies.

Normally, a carrier would expect to find three or four postage due letters in any 1,000 he has to deliver, Newman noted.

Postage rates Monday rose to five cents for regular letters instead of four cents. Airmail now costs eight cents instead of seven.

Because of these one cent postage boosts, Newman said his stations have been having field days selling one-cent stamps. More than 80,000 were sold Monday, raising the four-day total to more than 200,000.

"Yesterday, the lobby looked like Christmas," Newman said Tuesday morning, noting that it had now quieted to normal.

## Police Check On Anchorage Burglary

Eugene police are investigating a reported burglary at Jim's Anchorage Drive-In, 947 Franklin Blvd., sometime late Sunday night or Monday morning.

The burglars entered by breaking a window. About \$10 was taken from the cash register.