

Circuit Court Crime Cases Down Slightly, Frye Says

Criminal prosecutions in Lane County Circuit Court were down slightly in 1962, Dist. Atty. William Frye said Thursday.

Frye's figures, which cover only cases terminated in court, show 280 prosecutions last year,

compared to 304 prosecutions in 1961. The district attorney reported 256 convictions in 1962, down 23 from the previous year. Of the convictions, 210 came on guilty pleas. Verdicts of guilty follow-

ing a trial accounted for the remainder.

All but five of the convictions were for felonies, the most serious crimes, Frye said.

Statistically, defendants stood a better chance for acquittal by choosing a non-jury trial, Frye's figures suggest. Jurors returned 30 guilty verdicts and acquitted 11 persons, while those tried without a jury were found guilty in 16 cases, not guilty in 10.

Judges on their own motion acquitted three defendants.

The total of 70 circuit court trials was down five from 1961. Bad checks accounted for 84 convictions, Frye said. There were 40 convictions for burglary, 37 for larceny, 27 for sex offenses and 10 for robbery.

One person was convicted for murder, and four for negligent homicide.

Penitentiary sentences were imposed in 109 cases, Frye said, while probation or suspended sentences were granted in 151. Probation terms were revoked for 44 persons during the year.



EAGLE SCOUT — Gary Githens, 14, of Cottage Grove, will receive the Eagle Scout award during a Boy Scout ceremony Sunday. The public ceremony will be in the Methodist Church. Gary is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Githens and a member of Troop 400. His scoutmaster is Jim Shirley.

Film Has Surprise Ending at Grove

'It's Only Money' Adds Fiery Scene

COTTAGE GROVE — "It's Only Money" was the feature movie being shown Wednesday night at the Arcade Theater here.

At 10:45 p.m. the theater's projectionist, Wayne East-

burn, noticed a trace of smoke floating across the screen.

"I saw the smoke," Eastburn said. "I wondered if it was part of the movie. I had noticed that scene before and I couldn't remember any smoke in it."

The smoke turned out to be the first clue of a fire which involved the theater, the J. C. Penney Co. store and Carl's Paint shop.

As the smoke thickened, Eastburn ran down the theater aisle and asked patrons (there were about ten) to leave the building. He also instructed the cashier to call the fire department.

"I went back behind the screen and saw some smoke in a room back where we keep supplies."

Gary Egbert, another theater employee who had noticed the smoke, grabbed a fire extinguisher and accompanied Eastburn behind the screen.

"We saw lots of smoke coming from dressing rooms upstairs in the rear of the building," Eastburn said.

The theater originally was constructed for vaudeville use and dressing rooms were then a necessity.

"At the top of the stairs we saw more smoke coming from the dressing room on the right side, so we thought that the

fire was in the theater even though we didn't see any flames."

Firemen say the blaze originated at the rear of the J.C. Penney Co. store next to the theater.

"From the amount of smoke we saw," Eastburn said, "we figured it must be a pretty big fire."

When he came back into the main part of the theater, he said several persons were standing around the door at the head of the aisle.

"I hollered at them again and this time they left in a hurry."

Cottage Grove firemen arrived and later were joined by units from Eugene and Creswell under a mutual aid agreement.

The blaze was brought under control early Thursday morning.

Damage was estimated at \$450,000.

But as the theater marquee announced before it tumbled onto the street during the fire: "It's Only Money."



WAYNE EASTBURN
Theater Projectionist

Springfield Firm Low Bidder On Curtin School Addition

DRAIN—A. & G. Construction Co., Springfield, was awarded a contract to build an addition to Curtin Elementary School by the Drain school board Tuesday night.

His bid of \$43,185 was lowest of nine others.

The new addition will be started Monday and completed within 120 days, according to Supt. Vernon Todd. It will con-

tain a gymnasium and auditorium.

Todd said the building is being financed by serial levy funds. He said the bid was approximately the same as the amount available from the levy.

Other bidders were Wilson Construction Co., Eugene, \$44,183; Marsh Construction Co., Grants Pass, \$44,819; James and Stritzke, Roseburg, \$45,482; Todd Building Co., Roseburg, \$45,734; and Don Stuey, Eugene, \$45,887.

Murphy Construction Co., Roseburg, \$46,898; A. E. Stafford, Springfield, \$47,145; V. A. Nelson, Eugene, \$48,420; and C. H. Purdy, Eugene, \$48,936.

Perjury Hearing Set for Friday

A preliminary hearing has been set for Friday for a Veneta man charged with perjury in Lane County District Court Thursday.

Dwain Knight Coffey, 49, was arrested early Thursday morning and charged with giving false testimony in a grand jury hearing Jan. 15.

Coffey is accused of testifying falsely that he did not know the whereabouts of two horses owned by his wife, Florence Coffey.

Larson Promoted

Van B. Larson, a structural inspector for the Oregon State Highway Department has been promoted to assistant resident bridge engineer in Eugene, according to Highway Engineer Forrest Cooper.

Larson, 27, joined the state highway department in 1960 following his graduation from the University of Idaho.

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