

Thompson guilty of manslaughter, sentencing in May

(Reprinted from The Oregonian)

A federal court jury found Roscoe V. Thompson, Jr., 23, guilty of voluntary manslaughter in the May 1978 slaying of Wilbert Herbie Switzler, Jr., 30.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 21 in U.S. District Court in Portland. Thompson could be sentenced to a maximum of 10 years in prison. He originally was charged with second-degree murder, but the jury convicted him of the less-serious manslaughter offense.

A skull and partial skeletal remains identified as those of Switzler were discovered last Nov. 29 off Tenino Road 20 miles Southwest of Warm Springs. No exact date or cause of death were alleged in the indictment, which was returned in December.

There was conflicting testimony at trial on whether Thompson deliberately killed Switzler or had acted in self-defense.

The government, represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney William Youngman, based its case on a statement the defendant made to FBI agents last

November.

According to the statement, Thompson picked up Switzler in his car, offering him a ride to a tavern, which they discovered was closed. They then drove around Warm Springs and eventually out Tenino Road, drinking beer and whiskey along the way.

During casual conversation, according to the statement, Thompson discovered that Switzler had served prison time for manslaughter stemming from an arson fire which had killed a woman relative of Thompson's. They argued, got into a fist fight along the deserted road outside the car and Switzler was knocked down a dirt embankment. Thompson then got a borrowed rifle from his car, shot Switzler and buried his body in a shallow grave away from the road.

Thompson, in November, directed federal authorities to the grave, which apparently had been invaded by a bear that left bones and clothing strewn around the area.

Thompson testified that his memory had been very hazy at the time he made his statement

to the FBI. The defendant and a Portland doctor testified that Thompson later recalled under hypnosis that after he had knocked Switzler down the second time during their fist fight Switzler came up with a knife in his hand.

Thompson said he grabbed Switzler by the arm and the throat, pushed him to the ground and killed him by "breaking his windpipe" with a hold taught to him by an uncle who fought in Vietnam.

"I felt pretty panicked," said Thompson, who told the jury he then pushed Switzler down the bank, fired three or four shots toward him, then dragged the body into the woods and buried it.

Thompson said he put the rifle and knife in his car, but the next day could not remember why the bloodstained knife was there. He said he later threw the gun and the knife into the Deschutes River.

The jury deliberated about two hours and 45 minutes before returning its unanimous guilty verdict.



Stuffed

Secretaries Margie Tuckta and Angie Boise had magazines coming out of their ears as they tackled the project of stuffing and mailing out 1,950 National Geographic Magazines to members and friends of the Confederated Tribes. That issue contained the long-awaited story about the Warm Springs Reservation.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by CDS

COCC Election Moved Up to May 22

The annual Central Oregon Community College budget levy election has been moved up to May 22, more than a month

earlier than the original June 26 date.

Deliberations on the budget were completed by the 14-member

COCC budget committee ahead of schedule and COCC officials decided on an earlier poll date. A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for May 9.

The budget approved by the committee for operations and maintenance of COCC amounts to \$4,986,532. About half that amount will come from district property taxes.

Warm Springs' Adult Learning Center derives half its operating costs from COCC hard monies.

Voters are urged to turn out for the election, which coincides with the 509-J budget election.

Learn to Drive Safely

Forty Warm Springs residents are currently on probation for driving with suspended licenses, reports probation-parole officer Fabian Sutterlee. Ten have spent time in the penitentiary for that offense since it was made a felony in July of 1977.

These startling figures could be reduced if people would take advantage of the defensive driving courses offered every few months in the Warm Springs community, said Sutterlee.

The next defensive driving class has been scheduled for May

7, 8 and 14. The eight-hour course will be taught by Lee Loomis and held in the basement of the Indian Health Service Clinic. There is room for 20 individuals and the first to sign up will be selected. Registration is \$3.00.

Defensive driving is required for the issuing of probationary or occupational licenses, said Sutterlee, but the course is helpful for anyone who wishes to drive more skillfully and safely.

Register early to be sure of a spot in the class. The first class begins at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 7.



Student of the Month

Lucky Trend Business College student Sara Hintsala received a single rose for her hard work during the month of March. Sara's attendance improved 30 per cent and she passed several tests, including English and filing to earn her the student of the month award. Trend Business College is offering a nine month program to 15 students, who are either tribal members or married into the tribe.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by Behrend

Noontime Arts and Crafts

Beginning Monday, April 30, Carol Allison, Community Center arts and crafts instructor, will be offering special classes to interested persons during the lunch hour.

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of that week Carol will be teaching the art of making Pinatas. On Tuesday and Thursday a beginner's Oil Painting class will be offered.

Anyone interested can call Carol at the Community Center (553-1161 ext. 243) for more information. Also, ask for supplies needed.

You are invited to bring a sack lunch and learn a new skill or practice an old one.

Murdock Memo,

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salaries have been rolled back to pre-November 1, 1978 levels. Changing direction for NCAI

Staff cutbacks are the result of federal contracts running out, indicated Murdock, and there will be attempts to reinstate only some of the programs. This is evidence of what Murdock hopes is a changing direction for the National Congress.

"The purpose of the organization is not to seek and receive federal funds," said Murdock. "The purpose is to lobby. This function has been neglected while we've spent a lot of time patting people on the back on the hope of securing dollars." The president feels that lobbying should get "100 per cent effort."

It's also time for the tribes to take more responsibility for financial support of the Congress, said Murdock. Although it's not illegal for an organization dependent on federal contract monies to engage in active lobbying, "it appears that way," said the president. NCAI should

do what it can to "defend and uphold its independence," cautioned Murdock.

At this point NCAI needs to create separate accounting for its own dues and donations and the contract dollars, recommended Murdock.

In order to avoid the internal turmoil experienced by the National Tribal Chairmen's Association, NCAI should recognize two things, suggested the president. First, the executive director must be held accountable, and second, the executive committee must set policy. The last policy revisions were in 1966, Murdock pointed out.

Policy-making has been a low priority, she said, but it's time to formulate an "action plan" to anticipate rather than merely respond to situations.

"People are more interested in water rights and land claims," commented Murdock. "But once you have a base organization, then you can move forward with the greatest efficiency."

You Can Write

You Can Write, a short course in creative writing is being offered by the Adult Learning Center beginning May 2. The instructor Henry Morrison will teach students the art of writing prose and poetry and help people express themselves on paper. If you are interested in taking the class contact the Adult Learning Center. Cost is \$7.80 and will be held Wednesday evenings 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News

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