

Clatsop killer up for parole

District attorneys oppose release

By Amy Frazier
KOIN 6

PORTLAND — In 1976, George William Nulph kidnapped and murdered a woman in Cannon Beach. He was let out of prison about 10 years later and then raped women in Portland.

Now Nulph, who has spent the last 30 years in prison, is being considered for parole.

The 64-year-old convict argues he's no longer a threat to the community and should be released. But district attorneys representing Clatsop and Multnomah counties are fighting to keep him locked up.

The first case

In 1976, Frances Christians — the mother of two young children — was on her way home from work in Cannon Beach when Nulph kidnapped her, sexually assaulted her and shot her to death execution-style.

From The Daily Astorian, April 8, 1976:
George William Nulph, a

24-year-old ex-Marine arrested for murder and kidnapping charges Wednesday morning was arraigned on the charges in Clatsop District County Wednesday afternoon. He entered no plea. ...

Nulph was arrested at his residence at 165 S.W. Cedar, Warrenton, accused of abducting 51-year-old Frances Ann Christians April 2 from Silver Point and taking her to a logging road and shooting her.

Ms. Christians died of three gunshot wounds in the chest by a .22-caliber weapon after being sexually assaulted. Police say they haven't determined the motive in the slaying. ...

Nulph was given a life sentence for the crimes that shocked Clatsop County.

"Less than 10 years later, the Department of Corrections gave him a, quote, temporary leave and simply let him out of prison," said Josh Marquis, the Clatsop County district attorney.

The second case

Weeks after he was let out of prison on a "temporary leave" in 1986, he raped women in Multnomah County. Nulph was in prison in

1987 for the sex crimes and was sentenced as a dangerous offender.

"The reason Measure 11 passed, the reason we developed even moderately tough-on-crime laws in the 1990s was because of cases like Nulph's," Marquis said.

"One could make the argument, I suppose, that the man has done 30 years in prison for the rapes, which was the minimum he was sentenced," Marquis said. "Why not give him a chance, you know, to show that he's, in fact, rehabilitated himself."

The parole fight

Nulph was sentenced for the sex crimes as a dangerous offender. Judge Stephen Herrell sentenced him to a minimum of 80 years. After 80 years, he could be considered for parole.

Later that year, the parole board reviewed his sentence, deemed it excessive and reduced it, making him eligible for parole now.

According to court documents, part of Nulph's fight to get a parole hearing is his claim the anti-social personality disorder that made him dangerous is in remission.

Marquis doesn't believe that.

"I can't at this point share the psychological reports, but I can say that they are among the scariest I've ever read and I've handled over two dozen murder cases," he said.

Nulph's good behavior, Marquis said is "because he's in a facility (prison.) It's sort of a Catch-22."

Marquis argues that not only is Nulph still dangerous, he was never held accountable for committing the sex crimes during his murder release "because it (the murder) was lost by the institutional memory of the state of Oregon."

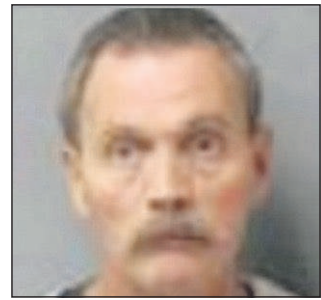
Marquis admitted, though, Nulph was punished for the sex crimes in 1986.

"In fairness, he was punished for the crimes of rape and sodomy by Multnomah County and the judges that had authority over that. And in fairness the parole board that exists today bears no relationship either to the institution or the people that existed back in the '70s and '80s."

But his concern is based on the law.

"As bizarre as this sounds," Marquis said, "the parole board is obligated to impose the rule of law that existed when he committed the crime, which is essentially 1976."

If his full sentence had re-



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
George Nulph in his most recent prison photo.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
George Nulph in his 1976 booking photo from Clatsop County.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Frances Christians, seen in an undated photo, was killed in April 1976 by George Nulph.

mained in place, he would not have been eligible for parole until around 2062. But now, for the first time, Nulph gets a

parole hearing this morning at the Oregon State Correctional Institution in Salem. A decision could take several weeks.

CANNON BEACH POLICE LOG

Dec. 31
11:57 p.m., Beach/Gower Street: Fireworks found and destroyed by officer.

Jan. 1
12:42 a.m., 1400 Block South Spruce Street: Fireworks offense. Fireworks observed in area. Unable to locate.

1:25 a.m., 1100 Block Avenue B: Male subject arrested for DUII. A BAC of 0.16 percent was obtained. Subject was booked and released to a sober responsible.

9:20 a.m., Highway 101/Milepost 27.5: Motor vehicle incident.

5:33 p.m., Beach/Umpqua: Reported dog at large. Officer arrived on scene. Dog was reunited with owner and officer cleared.

6:01 p.m., 100 Block Brallier: Subject called 911 wanted the police to pick up his girlfriend and bring her to him. He was advised about misuse of 911. He later called the business line and said she had returned home a few moments later.

7:12 p.m., Warren Way/Hemlock Street: Subject stopped for traffic violation. Subject cited for driving while suspended and no insurance. Subject's license was recovered by officer. Subject was given a courtesy

ride to Arch Cape. Officer cleared.

Jan. 2
1:17 p.m., 2500 Block South Roosevelt: Officer responded to assist Seaside Police and Seaside Fire Department with a violent subject.

10:46 p.m., Highway 101/Milepost 32: Officer found injured owl in the middle of highway. Officers were unable to get the owl into a carrier. Owl was last seen on the right shoulder of the northbound lane of Highway 101 and the third exit.

Jan. 3
2:21 p.m., Coho Place: Complaint of a dog at large, roaming the neigh-

borhood. The dog was brought by a neighborhood resident to a construction crew. The crew called the police department. A phone number search identified the owner. Owners were out of town. The dog was transported to CBPD. The dog sitter was identified and claimed the dog.

10:40 p.m., Highway 101/Milepost 29: Officer removed deceased animal from the roadway, due to it being a traffic hazard.

10:47 p.m., Highway 101/Milepost 29: Fugitive.

Jan. 4
8:52 a.m., 200 Block West Kenai Street: Report of a door "blown" off

its hinges. Arrived and found crawl space access had blown open due to wind. Reinstalled and secured.

Jan. 5
3:41 p.m., 500 Block South Roosevelt Drive: Successful subpoena service.

7:42 p.m., Highway 101/Milepost 27.2: Fugitive. Subject arrested on multiple felony warrants. Second subject arrested on parole and probation detainer for violation of a no-contact order.

Jan. 6
6:36 a.m., 1400 Block South Hemlock Street: Assisted Cannon Beach Fire and Medix with unresponsive female.

Jan. 7
1:56 a.m., 4000 Block South Hemlock Street: Suspicious circumstances.

1:12 p.m., 300 Block Elk Creek Road: Officer assisted subjects change a flat tire.

4:22 p.m., 700 Block North Hemlock Street: Report of toddler running around outside without pants on. Outside temperature was 32 degrees. Discovered that toddler had unlocked door and gone outside while mother was using the bathroom.

9:13 p.m., 1000 Block South Holladay: Drug recognition evaluation.

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