

First Degree Murder Charged In Shooting

Heppner Gazette Times

Copies 10 cents

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, June 9, 1955

72nd Year, Number 13

Second Polio Shots to Be Given Next Week

The clinic for the second polio shots will be held for the children of the Heppner area at the Heppner school at 9 a. m. Monday, June 13, it was announced today by Dr. A. D. McMurdo, the county health officer.

Children of the Lexington and Ione areas will receive their second shots at the Lexington school at 10:30 a. m. on the same day.

Children of the north end of the county will get their shots the following day, Tuesday, June 14. Dr. McMurdo will be at the Irrigon school at 9:30 a. m. and at the Boardman school at 10:30 a. m.

Only children who received the first shot of polio vaccine given by Dr. McMurdo on May 23 and 24 will be eligible for the second shot, he said. The third, or the booster shot will not be given by the health department but must be arranged for by the family from its private physician. At the present time it is stated by the Oregon state board of health that "the third dose should be given about seven months after the second shot and preferably before the next year's polio season."

Parents are urged to bring their children in for the second shot since the recommendation is

that, "two injections of vaccine, spaced two to six weeks apart, will probably give 60 to 90 percent protection against paralytic poliomyelitis for the current polio season; however, little protection from these two doses will remain until the 1956 polio season unless a third injection is given."

Parents will be given a certificate of immunization so that a permanent record of the series can be kept for future reference.

Only Two Filings Made for School Board Positions

A third petition nominating Raymond French of the Butter Creek area was filed today, school officials reported. He will run for the three year term on the board.

The deadline for filing petitions for positions of a school board is next Monday, June 13, it was revealed today by L. E. Dick, Jr. chairman of the Heppner board. Two persons have filed for the three open positions on the local board and there are other petitions out, but they have not been returned by today.

Filing for the five-year position is Howard Cleveland, a present board member whose term will expire this month. Harold Wright has also filed for the 4 year position, district clerk, Mrs. Nona Sowell reported.

Changes in the school law made by the recent legislature, now require all districts to have a 5-member board and changed the method of nominating for board jobs. All districts in Morrow county have been operating with three-member boards.

In the past nominations could be made from the floor during the annual school meeting and election. Under the new law, however, petitions, bearing the names of at least 10 voters in the district, must be filed with the district clerk at least 10 days prior to the election.

The annual election will be held Monday, June 20 between 2 and 8 p. m. at the school building. In districts other than Heppner, the meeting and election will start at 2 p. m. but the polls may not remain open as long as here. The law requires the polls to be open only for one hour, but the board may lengthen the time if they desire.

The present members of the Heppner board are Dick, Cleveland and Ed Collison. Only Cleveland's term expires this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vaughn had as their guests on Monday, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Gordon of Portland.



ACCUSED OF MURDER in Saturday night's fatal shooting of Dellmore Lessard, Portland attorney, is Mrs. Ann Whitney Avent, center. She is shown with sheriff C. J. D. Bauman, right and Mrs. Bauman, police matron, left, as she was being brought into the Morrow county court house Monday afternoon for arraignment. She is being held in the Pendleton city jail (GT Photo)

COUNCIL TO ORDER REPAIRS OF BAD SIDEWALKS IN HEPPNER

Numerous property owners in Heppner will shortly receive notices of bad sidewalk conditions on their property from the city council with instructions to repair the walks within 60 days.

The recommendation was voted by the council at its regular meeting Monday night after a list of bad sidewalks was read to the group. According to ordinance, the council must notify the property holder of such conditions and if they have not been removed or necessary improvements made within 60 days, the city has the right to do the necessary work and bill the owner.

The council felt that a survey of sidewalk conditions had been overdue as there were many sections where broken or cracked walks constituted a hazard. It was not the intention of the council to put any particular pressure on citizens, but merely to advise them of the difficulties and give owners time to make repairs.

City superintendent Vic Groshen asked the council to urge residents to be careful with their irrigation water, now that warmer weather had come. He said that there is ample water available for all from the city wells, but that only so much can be pushed through the city mains. Lack of pressure in some areas during the past few days has been due to many persons letting their sprinklers run all night, Groshen said.

which does not give the city opportunity to refill its reservoirs during the night.

Groshen said that the city is already using an average of 425,000 gallons of water a day and the hot weather has just started.

Building Permit Issued
Several building permits were OK'd by the group, the largest being for a 70 by 120 foot concrete and steel feed and grain storage building to be built by Interior Warehouse Company adjacent to its present buildings on Lynden Way. It is to cost \$30,000 and will be built by McCormack Construction company of Pendleton.

Several other small permits were granted for remodeling work or garage construction.

Groshen reported that he is still waiting to receive shipment of the new filter equipment for the city swimming pool which should have been here over a month ago. He told the council that recent phone calls to the Sparkler Equipment Company, low bidders to supply the equipment, had not succeeded in locating the material, but that it supposedly has been shipped from the factory. It is hoped to have the filters installed prior to the opening of the pool later this month.

The street committee agreed to investigate a proposal made by Harold Sanders to change the location of Alfalfa street where it intersects the Balm Fork road. At the present time it cuts across a section of his property making it useless.

Alex Thompson, a member of the Heppner fire department, reported on his recent attendance at the state fire instructors training school held two weeks ago at Lake Grove, near Portland. He took a week's intensive training on fire department methods and instruction.

Wheat Referendum To Be Discussed At June 16 Meet

The Morrow county ASC committee and the extension service have made plans to hold another growers' meeting to discuss the 1956 marketing quota referendum at the Lexington Grange hall, on Thursday, June 16 at 8 p. m.

All wheat growers are urged to attend for an interesting and informative program, it was said.

J. R. Beck of the state extension service will discuss the wheat problem in general and E. Harvey Miller, state ASC chairman, will discuss the marketing quota regulations and how they will effect the farmers. Bob Taylor, Wheat League representative, is expected to have some interesting observations to add to the program. Further discussion will follow on the use of diverted acres and making better use of the ACP program.

The marketing quota referendum vote will be held Saturday, June 25 at the local voting places in the county. Each eligible wheat producer will be notified by mail by the ASC office as to his voting place, it was reported.

Reservations Asked For Park Use

Directors of the Cutsforth forest park asked this week that any organization or group wishing exclusive use of the park at any time during the coming summer, register with Bradley Fancher.

Fancher said that several organizations have already signed up for the park which is open to the public at all times except when it has been reserved for special occasions.

Portland Attorney Killed After Talks Over Custody of Boy

District attorney Bradley Fancher said Wednesday afternoon that the preliminary hearing in the murder charge against Mrs. Avent has been set for next Monday at Heppner. Ralph Currin, Pendleton attorney, will represent Mrs. Avent.

A charge of first degree murder was filed Monday against Mrs. Ann Whitney Avent, 38, following the shooting late Saturday afternoon of Dellmore Lessard, 57, a prominent attorney and former state senator. Lessard was killed instantly by a bullet from a 38 caliber revolver which several witnesses said was fired by Mrs. Avent. The shooting occurred in O'Donnell's Cafe in Heppner at about 5:30 p. m.

Mrs. Avent, a slight blond woman who is the mother of two children, heard the charge made against her at an arraignment on Monday afternoon before justice of the peace J. O. Hager. It was filed by district attorney Bradley Fancher and the complaint had been signed by Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman, one of the officers to arrest Mrs. Avent within minutes after the shooting occurred.

According to the report of investigating officers, Mrs. Avent and Lessard had been seated in a booth in the bar section of the restaurant where she was employed as a bartender, discussing a proposal presented by Lessard that her ex-husband, Fred Avent of Portland be allowed to take their son Kim, 13, to Portland, supposedly to be placed in a private school in or near there. Lessard was representing Avent as his attorney.

Waitresses in the restaurant said that just moments prior to the shooting Lessard had come to the counter and asked for one of the O'Donnells, owners of the restaurant, saying that he needed some help and that Mrs. Avent had threatened to kill him.

The shooting occurred in the front part of the restaurant when Mrs. Avent entered that section of the building from the bar carrying the gun which she had covered with a white coat. Dropping the coat she began to fire the gun, it was reported, but it clicked three times before striking a shell.

In attempting to get away from the woman, Lessard dodged behind a cigarette vending machine which stood near the door. The first bullet fired struck the machine and it appeared that he tried to push the machine over on Mrs. Avent without success for the second shot struck Lessard in the right temple killing him almost instantly.

After the fatal shooting Mrs. Avent returned to the bar section and laid the gun on the bar with her hands on it where it was taken away from her by one of several persons who happened to be in the place at the time but did not realize what was happening until after hearing the shots.

Police Come Quickly
The first officer to arrive on the scene was state policeman Laurence Kezar who was eating at a restaurant across the street to which one of the O'Donnell waitresses, Mrs. Verla Carr, ran for help. Kezar entered the cafe only minutes after the shots were fired and placed Mrs. Avent under arrest. Sheriff Bauman and city police officers were also on hand in a very short time to aid the state patrolman.

The gun which Mrs. Avent allegedly used belonged to Miles McIntyre of Heppner and had been left in the restaurant by him some time ago for safe keeping. It had not been left loaded though it was in a holster and ammunition belt which held several shells. It was kept underneath a counter in the office part of the bar. It is surmised by officers, though not admitted by Mrs. Avent, that after Lessard left the bar to go to the restaurant, she obtained the gun and placed three shells in it. The story told officers however, is vague as to the exact sequence of events at that time. The gun held three shells which had been placed in the chamber in such a position they did not come into firing position until the trigger had been pulled three times.

The body was taken to Creswick Mortuary and later to Portland where funeral services were to be held.



VICTIM in Saturday's fatal shooting in a Heppner restaurant was Dellmore Lessard, Portland attorney. Funeral services were held today in Portland. (Cut Courtesy Oregon Journal)

Dead Attorney Well Known in State

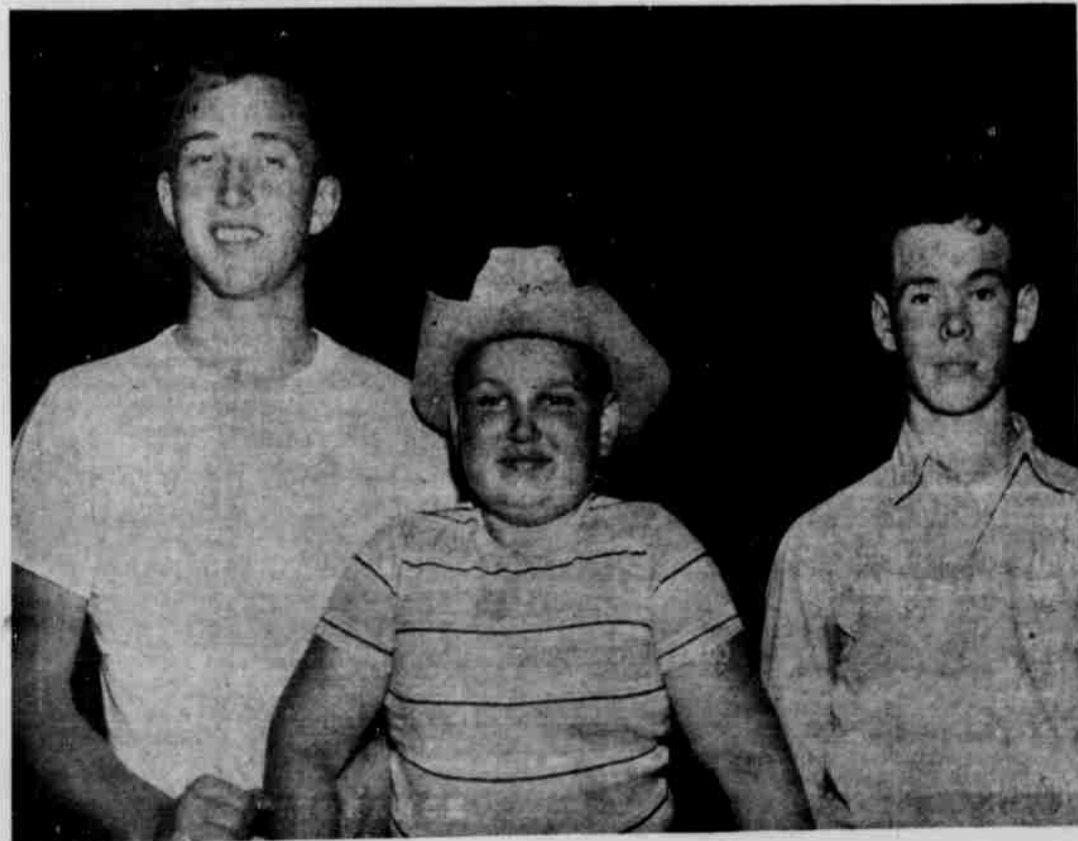
Dellmore Lessard, 57, who was killed by gunfire Saturday in a Heppner restaurant, was a prominent Portland attorney with the firm of Lessard, Granet and Creutz. He had been a state senator and at the time of his death was serving as Guatemalan consul in Portland.

Lessard was born in Minnesota and had moved to Portland in 1905. He also lived in Walla Walla and Bellingham, Wash. in earlier years. He served in World War I and was a graduate of the University of Southern California. He was vice president of the Portland Lions club, a former state chairman of the America First committee, past chairman of the Willamette Democratic Society, a member of the Eagles lodge, the American Legion and other organizations.

He started the practice of law in Portland in 1924. He was registered as a republican in 1926, changed to democrat in 1931 and changed back again to republican in 1942. He served in the state senate during the 1935 and 1937 sessions and was defeated when he ran for Multnomah county district attorney in 1938. He was well known for one case he handled, the defense for Edward and Joseph Lessard, who were not related to him, over the harpooning of Portland's famous whale in October, 1931.

Lessard is survived by his wife, Goldie, whom he married 14 years ago, and two children by a former wife, one of whom lives in Portland and the other in Idaho or Montana.

The body was taken to Creswick Mortuary and later to Portland where funeral services were to be held.



TOP JUDGING TEAM at the 4-H and FFA fat stock show and sale at The Dalles this week were these three Ione boys. They are, left to right, Dick Ekstrom, Phil Emert and Bill Brannon. (The Dalles Optimist Photo)

Many Honors Won at The Dalles Show

The largest group of Morrow county 4-H club members ever to enter the ninth annual Oregon Wheat League fat stock and sale at The Dalles will continue to walk off with top honors today as they piled up wins in both team and individual judging contests, showmanship contests and with their animals.

Dick Ekstrom, Ione came out with a whole armload of honors as his 4-H steer was judged the grand champion during the Wednesday showing. This is the second year in a row that he has won this honor at The Dalles show. He is also a member of the 4-H livestock judging team which took top honors Tuesday,

THE DALLES (Special)—A team of sharp-eyed Morrow county boys won the 4-H livestock judging contest here Monday at the ninth annual 4-H and F. F. A. fat stock show and sale.

Phil Emert, Dick Ekstrom and Bill Brannon, all of Ione, beat out a Sherman county team in judging beef, sheep and swine, in competition with 22 4-H teams. Emert and Brannon were members of the 1954 county fair winning judging team and represented Morrow county at the P-I in 1954.

Champion individual judge among 159 contestants was Jean Ross, Moro, who teamed up with Jimmy Coons, also of Moro, and

Jeanette Belshee, Wasco, for second place team standing.

Russell Dolven, Lexington won fourth place in the individual judging.

At the time of this writing there are several other classes still to be shown and contests to be held which may add more laurels to those already collected by county youngsters but following is a list of winners as compiled by county agent N. C. Anderson up to Wednesday noon: Dick Ekstrom, grand champion 4-H steer.

Bill Brannon, Ione, reserve champion showman in hogs; grand champion of 4 fat

hogs; and second place for single hog.

Beef—Joe Palmer, Lexington, third place.

Hereford—Dick Ekstrom, second place with different animal than above.

Hereford—Jerry Anderson, Heppner, second place.

Shorthorn—Billie Doherty, Lexington, third place.

Hereford—Skip Emert, Ione, fourth place.

Sheep—Dennis Doherty, Heppner, first place for white face fat lamb.

Sheep—Janet Palmer, Lexington, third place, white face fat lamb.

(Continued on page 5)