

# Murder Charged

Continued from Page 1

**Threat Made**  
Subject of the disagreement was Mrs. Avent's son Kim, who lives with her and Mrs. Avent's mother, Mrs. C. A. Whitney in Heppner. At the time of the killing the boy was at a Boy Scout camp near Opal Butte, as was district attorney Fancher, a scout official. Mr. and Mrs. Avent were divorced several years ago and according to reports she was granted custody of the two children, Kim and a married daughter, Mrs. Wayne (Dixie) Erickson, 19, who now lives in or near Portland. Avent had come to Heppner Saturday with his attorney, who was a member of the firm of Lessard, Granet and Creitz, to try to talk Mrs. Avent into letting him take the boy with him.

Mrs. Avent told the publisher of the Gazette Times, shortly after the shooting, when asked why she had done it, that "He threatened to take my boy away from me." Police also reported that she told them the attorney had made the statement that she was an unfit mother. She had previously made the claim that her ex-husband had failed to pay alimony and support money.

**Jailed in Pendleton**  
After preliminary questioning by police Saturday night, Mrs. Avent was taken to Pendleton by sheriff Bauman and held without bail in the Pendleton city jail as the Morrow county jail here has no facilities for handling women prisoners.

An inquest was held Monday morning and a coroner's jury reported that there was sufficient evidence presented to support a charge that Mrs. Avent had killed Lessard. She was returned to Heppner Monday afternoon for arraignment before Judge Hager where she was informed of the charges filed against her. By Wednesday she had not obtained the services of an attorney and it was expected that circuit judge William W. Wells will be asked to appoint an attorney to defend her.

**Three Saw Shooting**  
Though there were several customers in the cafe bar at the time of the shooting, the restaurant part was empty except for the three employees who witnessed the affair. They were Mrs. Verla Carr, Mrs. Mary Snow and Mrs. Tom Walker. All three immediately ran out the kitchen entrance for assistance as soon as they realized what was happening.

Police first on the scene reported that Mrs. Avent admitted to them that she had shot Lessard, as she did in effect a few minutes later in her statement to the Gazette Times. It is reported, however, that early this week she claims she is unable to remember any of the actual happenings at the time.

Several news stories of the shooting named the woman as Ann Perkins Avent, which it is said is her maiden name which

# Conservation Tour Set for Monday

The annual conservation and better farming practices tour of farms in the Heppner soil conservation district will be held next Monday, June 13, it was announced this week by N. C. Anderson, district secretary.

The tour will leave from the fairgrounds at 9:20 a. m. and will stop at the Lexington Odd Fellows hall at noon for lunch which will be given by the Heppner-Morrow county chamber of commerce.

The tour schedule will be as follows:  
First stop will be at Vernon Munkers' upper ranch (old Beamer ranch) to inspect pubescent wheatgrass waterways and 1955 strip cropping at 9:30.  
At 10:15 the tour will stop at the ranch of Paul Brown, 1954 conservation man of the year, to observe strip cropping, sod waterways and wildlife plantings.  
10:30 a. m.—Al Bunch ranch, strip cropping, sod waterways, wildlife watering guzzlers, farm windbreak, farmyard seeding.  
11:30—Newt O'Hara, Lexington, 1954 range improvement seedling, irrigated pastures.  
1:30 p. m.—Delbert Emert, Ione, 1954 cattleman of the year, grass-alfalfa ensilage trench silo, irrigation turnouts.  
2:00 p. m.—Herbert Ekstrom, Ione, 1954 grassman of the year, irrigated pastures. Enroute the tour will note stubble mulch tillage on the Halvorsen, Stefani, Bergevin, Howton, McElligott and Morgan ranches.  
2:45 p. m.—Don Peterson, Ione, fertilizer plots, farm windbreak, wildlife plantings, stubble mulch, grazing alfalfa seedings, sod waterways and farm ponds.  
3:45—Fred Mankin, strip cropping, stubble mulch trial with sweep and skew treader.  
Last stop will be at the Frank Anderson ranch to observe stubble mulch with discing and skew treader, grass nursery and cereal nursery.  
was restored to her after her divorce from Fred Avent. Her state bartender's license however, lists her name as Ann Whitney Avent.  
Though the gun used in the killing did not belong to Mrs. Avent, police said they found one in her home which supposedly did belong to her. It was a loaded automatic pistol. The sheriff said she had applied for a permit to carry a concealed weapon some time ago, but was refused the permit.  
Lessard's body was taken to Creswick Mortuary and an autopsy was performed Sunday. He was taken to Portland early this week for final rites.  
Fancher said this week that a preliminary hearing will probably be asked for and then the case will go to the grand jury within a few days. No hearing is planned until Mrs. Avent obtains the services of an attorney, Fancher said.  
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Turner spent the weekend in Baker visiting with his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. John Turner.

# Damage Reported At Fair Grounds, Reward Posted for Offenders

The Morrow county fair board this week announced the offer of a \$25 reward to anyone supplying information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of anyone defacing or destroying property at the fair and rodeo grounds.

Fair board members said that there have been several cases recently of malicious damage to signs and buildings and it is hoped the posting of the reward may lead to the apprehension of persons responsible.

# Summer Weather Sends Mercury Up

Coats, sweaters and long sleeve shirts disappeared in a hurry early this week as Morrow county got its first taste of summer weather.

Temperatures started climbing into the high 70s and low 80s last weekend and have continued to raise each day since. The warmest day to be recorded so far this year was Wednesday when an unofficial 90 was recorded in Heppner.

According to weather forecasts, continued fair weather with even slightly higher temperatures can be expected during the next few days.

# Many From Here At State Elks Meeting

A group of 18 members of the Heppner Elks lodge and their wives returned last weekend from Ashland where they had attended the state Elks convention held last Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the southern Oregon city. Members reported a registration of over 2400 persons at the meeting.

Going from the Heppner lodge were Mr. and Mrs. Milton Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Van Marter, Jr., Alton Yarnell, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Labhart, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Keithley, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan McCurdy, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Jack Van Winkle, Jack Edmondson, Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bailey.

# DRISCOLLS AT GRADUATION

Mr. and Mrs. James Driscoll were in Walla Walla the first of the week to attend the graduation of their daughter, Janice, from St. Paul's Academy.

The Driscolls continued on to Baker to attend the Postmasters convocation.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hunt of Downey, California are spending a few days visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Al Fetsch.

# SAGE RIDERS WIN TROPHY FROM WRANGLERS IN SUNDAY HEY-DAY

The Umatilla Sage Riders walked off the rodeo field Sunday with permanent possession of the trophy after winning the Wranglers-Sage Riders June Hey-Day event by a score of 69 to Heppner's 41 points. It was the second consecutive year the Sage Riders had won the show and gained permanent possession of the trophy.

The show was put on in excellent weather and attracted a good sized crowd of spectators from both Morrow and Umatilla counties.

Winners in the various events follow in the order of their placing:  
Bending race: Bill Healy, Kite Healy, Neil Beamer; 2, Floyd Jones, Floyd Hutchins, Tad Miller; 3, Deloris Cresap, Monte Flack, Jim Bonney; 4, Barry Conner, Betty Somerville, Janice Roberts.  
Calf roping: Oscar George, Clyde Nobles, Jr., Don Greenup, Ralph Beamer.  
Sack race: Guy and Barbara Moore; Janice Roberts and Don Tracy; Sandra Eubanks and Diana Fullerton; Geraldine Swagart and Jim Fullerton.  
Saddle horse race: Bill Healy, Ralph Beamer, Omer Bonney, Christine Swagart.  
Musical chairs: Clyde Nobles, Jr., J. C. Nobles, George Sawyer, Sandra Eubanks.  
Cloverleaf: Guy Matlock, Omer Bonney, Kite Healy, Bill Healy.  
Trailer race: Jim Somerville and Clyde Nobles Jr., Bud Shanafelt and C. J. Nobles, Ruth Rennicker and Frank Green, Rex Jackson and Lloyd Harriman.

# Church School Now On At Methodist

A daily vacation church school is now being held in the Methodist church for children five years old through the fourth grade, Rev. Lester Boulden, pastor announces.

Working at the school are Mrs. Edwin Walker, Mrs. Doyle Abern, Mrs. Kenneth Keeling, Mrs. Alfred Ludeman, Mrs. Lester Boulden, Miss Carolyn McDaniel, Miss Celia Boulden and Miss Sharon Abern.

# Heppner Trapshooter Wins New Automobile

Luke Bibby, Heppner trapshooter, invaded Washington soil last weekend for a special shoot and came home Sunday night driving a brand new 1955 Plymouth sedan.

Bibby entered the Walla Walla Gun Clubs handicap shoot held Saturday and Sunday and came out winner of the special event and the owner of the new car which was the prize.

Bibby had a two day score of 194 out of 200, shooting from the 19 yard line.

# Catholic Vacation School Ends Sunday

The Catholic church religious vacation school has been in progress for the past two weeks and will end next Sunday, June 12, it was revealed by Rev. Francis McCormack.

On Sunday there will be two Masses at 7 and 9 a. m. The 9 o'clock Mass will be a High Mass sung by the children under the direction of Sister Kathryn Teresa. A group of 12 children will take their first Holy Communion and the women of the Altar Society will serve a communion breakfast for all children attending summer school as well as for first Holy Communicants and their parents.

Helping to carry out the program for the summer school are Mrs. James Sumner and Miss Joan Brosnan.

Masses the following Sunday, June 19 will be at 8 a. m. at Heppner and at 9:30 a. m. at Ione.

# Two Condon Airmen Die in Accident

Two men stationed at the Condon Air Base died from injuries received when their car went off road at Olex on the Condon-Arlington highway just before midnight last night. One man was killed in the wreck and the other died shortly after being brought to Pioneer Memorial hospital.

The dead men were Alc Henry O. Syverstaz of Bellingham, Wash., and Alc Peter Love of Everett, Wash. The men were returning to duty at the base following a leave during which they had been at their homes.

# Accident Sends One Man To Hospital

Louis Allyn of Lexington was brought to Pioneer Memorial hospital Sunday morning by ambulance following a one car accident at the intersection of the Rhea creek road and the Heppner-Arlington highway. His injuries were not believed to be serious.

Allyn apparently lost control of the car which struck the rock bluff along the highway and overturned.

# HOSPITAL NEWS

**New Arrival**—To Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Sherman, Heppner, a 6 lb. 2 oz. girl born June 8, named Barbara Ann.

**Medical**—Alex Hunt, Lexington, dismissed; Eugene Sawyer, Lexington, dismissed; Ava Wright, Heppner, dismissed; Larry Vestal, Monument, dismissed; Louis Allyn, Lexington; John Spkos, Condon; Willard Lee, Kinzua, dismissed; Lawrence Davidson, Ione, dismissed; Haskell Cantrell, Condon; Alice Hiatt, Athena; Peter Love, Everett, Wash., (deceased).  
Minor Surgery—Sandra Hall, Kinzua, dismissed; Estelle Ristas, Condon, dismissed; Janina Johnson, Heppner, dismissed; Esther Bergstrom, Heppner.  
Major Surgery — Richard Calvin, Heppner.  
Out-patient — Mary Gilliam, Heppner; Tommy Glass, Heppner.

**HAVE NEW DAUGHTER**  
Cpl. and Mrs. Robert A. Jones of Salasburgh, Germany, are the parents of a 6 lb. 1 oz. girl named Hannah Bobette.  
Grandparents are Alva W. Jones of Heppner and Mr. and Mrs. Feller of Eugene.  
Cpl. Jones is stationed in Germany with the Army.

**HARRY DUVALL IMPROVED**  
It was reported Wednesday that Harry Duvall, Heppner rancher, was improving following a serious attack Sunday. He is under treatment at Pioneer Memorial hospital.

# JR. LEGION GAME TO BE PLAYED HERE SUNDAY

The next Junior Legion baseball game will be played Sunday, June 12 at the Heppner rodeo field starting at 2 p. m. It was announced today. They will meet Hermiston for the first time this season.

The squad has previously suffered two losses at the hands of Pendleton and Milton-Freewater.

**Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Warner** of Eugene were here Memorial Day weekend to help Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walker move to Eugene. Walker has a barber shop in the Santa Clara district of Eugene.

**Mrs. Alma Gilliam of Portland** returned to her home Thursday (today) after spending her vacation here visiting with her sister, Mrs. Charles Barlow.

**Billy Hughes returned Monday** from Pacific University. He was accompanied by his father Joe Hughes who had been recuperating from a recent illness at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Keith Marshall of Canby.

**O. G. Crawford, Gearhart,** former publisher of the Gazette Times, is visiting this week in Heppner. He is staying at the Frank S. Parker home.

**Jerry, Mike and Sharon Bunch** left by bus from The Dalles Monday for Portland where they will see the rose festival. They will return Sunday with their aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes Gabbert.

**Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson** and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Bunch attended an executive committee meeting of the Oregon Wheat League Monday at The Dalles.

**Sharon Bryant, princess of the** Pendleton Round-Up, was in Union to attend the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show with the queen and her court. They will also attend the Rose Festival in Portland on Friday. Bob Bryant is visiting his mother in Potlatch, Idaho.

# MANY HONORS

(Continued from Page 1)  
Judging—Russell Dolven, fourth place in individual judging.  
Showmanship  
Senior beef showman, Dick Ekstrom fourth place.  
Intermediate class beef showman—Skip Emert fourth place.  
Junior class beef—Billie Doherty, sixth place.  
Intermediate sheep showman—Sandra Rhea, Echo, third place.  
Intermediate sheep showman—Dennis Doherty, fourth place.  
Junior sheep showman—Kenneth Nelson, Lexington, third place.  
A total of 12 Morrow county boys and girls entered the sheep showmanship contest, Anderson reported.

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