

What Were Returning Turncoats Like as Boys? Author Travels Far To Get Answer

Editor's note: Three young Americans have turned back to their native land after first choosing to cast their lot with Communism. Whatever motivated them in the first place? Virginia Pasley, a reporter for the Long Island newspaper, Newsday, traveled 15,000 miles into 23 states to find the answer for her book, "21 Stayed." Here is what she found out about the three turncoat GIs who have chosen to return.

PFC. WILLIAM A. COWART

Dalton, Ga.
Born Jan. 10, 1933
Protestant.
Three Years High School.
Billy Cowart pestered his mother unceasingly until she let him quit school and enlist in the Army. Shipped to Japan, he was with the first soldiers thrown into the front lines when the Korean war began. Within three weeks he was wounded and captured by the Communists.

For a time he wrote letters from prison camp to everyone he knew in his home town. Gradually the letters fell off, and then the news came that Billy had abandoned his native land, decided to stay with the Reds.

"I've gone too far; I can't go back," he told the only man in the hut still on speaking terms with him since he had become pro-Chinese.

"He came over and told me that he had just been to regimental headquarters and had agreed to refuse repatriation," said James Wilson of Chattanooga, Tenn., a returned prisoner of war. "I tried to argue him out of it. But he said it was too late; that he didn't have any friends anyway; that no one would talk to him."

What kind of boy was Billy, Cowart?
He was an only child, adored by his mother. His parents were divorced when he was six. He saw his father only once more, when he was 14. Friends said his step-father "did everything he could for the boy and treated him as though he were his own." In school his IQ was rated average but he was in the lower fourth of his class.

But he did have a steady girl in a somewhat shy, adolescent way. He carried her books, ate lunch with her. He didn't date her much in the evenings, though he went to church with her and talked for hours on the telephone.

The girl was married after his capture. His mother wrote him about it. A cabin mate recalled that about that time Billy swam far out into a lake near the camp with the idea of committing suicide but changed his mind. Later letters indicated he wasn't badly shaken.

He worked in the textile mills in Dalton. His former boss, J. F. Calloway Jr., feels that anyone who hasn't been subjected to imprisonment and torture is not in a position to condemn those who cracked under it.

"Bill was just a kid and he was wounded," Calloway said. "Remember that. Even those who came back didn't know what they were fighting for. As for Billy, he hardly knew who was President."

Billy's mother broke down under the strain of worrying over her son. For a long time she clung to the thought that this boy is really not her boy, not really the Billy Cowart who marched off from Dalton so proudly in 1949.

She thinks maybe the news his girl married affected him. "And then if they told him he would be arrested when he came back to this country, he would have stayed over there because Billy had a horror of being arrested," she said. "He was afraid of the police."

Looking back, Mrs. Green feels that she left him alone too much and depended on him too much.

"He did most of the housework after school because my husband and I were at the mills. And then he worked too, at the mill and at a sandwich shop because he wanted to earn his own money."

PFC. OTHO G. BELL

Hillsboro, Miss.
Born Jan. 23, 1931
Protestant
8th Grade.
Otho Bell was 23 on Jan. 23, 1954, the last day he had to change his mind and go back to his wife and the daughter he had never seen, the farm in Mississippi where he had been raised.

It isn't necessary to presume that Otho's decision to stay with his Red jailers was a decision to die so far as home and family and country were concerned. Otho had other strikes against him too.

He had not been educated, as one teacher put it, "to the point where he would be a good citizen of a democracy or would be capable of judging what the Reds told him."

On the other hand, he had learned to do what he was told—and no backtalk.

"I could always scare him into anything," his father, Elbert A. Bell, said. "And if I had the chance I could have scared him into coming back home."

But it was the Chinese Communists, not Otho's father, who had the chance to scare him into doing what they wanted him to do—and they succeeded every time.

Otho's father remarried when the boy was seven months old and there were six more children by this marriage.

"He was just the same as my own, I had him so young," the second Mrs. Bell said. "Seems like I thought more of him at times than the others."

"Otho was a good little boy. He didn't fight with the other children—he got along too good with them."

Bell worked his boys hard on their farm. He says Otho was "a real good worker," strong and healthy. The boy liked to hunt for possum and squirrel in the woods, fish the streams for cat and trout. He didn't like school and spent three years in the eighth grade.

Jewell said, "he wouldn't let me do any heavy work after we knew the baby was coming. After he got overseas he wrote me five letters a week even if it was only a line."

Jewell has been waiting for her husband. One of the last messages she received from him asked if she and Paula still loved him and added, "I am wondering if you are planning to marry someone else or still want to be my wife."

PFC. LEWIS W. GRIGGS

Neches, Tex.
Born Aug. 2, 1932
Baptist

Two years high school. Mention Lewis Griggs in Neches and they shake their heads. "He was a strange one," a neighbor said. "He stood aloof. Didn't speak if he didn't care to. Town like this everyone knows everyone else. Speaks to everyone else. But he'd just go along with his head in the air. Wouldn't even look at you."

As in many rural communities, most of the young people who were children with Lewis have scattered and gone. Those that remain remember him as a "lone wolf."

He didn't mix much with the other kids," one girl said. "His father was strict with him. Only place he could go was to church. He wasn't like the rest of us."

Lewis went on a bus 18 miles to a consolidated high school. His last year, at 16, he was big for his age, six foot two. He played on the football squad, made the B team and got a letter. He got an 82 in algebra but barely passed his other courses.

One teacher said she thinks "We didn't do everything we could have for him."

Lewis' father was an electrician. He died while his son was in prison camp. The family was considered well-off in tiny Neches but somewhat underprivileged by standards of the nearby affluent town of Palestine.

Big Chiloquin Mill Plans Announced By New Company

Plans for construction of a 75,000-foot per shift sawmill at Chiloquin were revealed here Friday by officials of Simplot-DeVoe Lumber company, a newly organized firm.

Articles of incorporation of Simplot-DeVoe Lumber were filed in Salem recently by J. R. Simplot, Boise industrialist; J. DeVoe, Medford lumberman; Jim Davis, Shady Cove logger, and George Duff, plant manager for Cal-Ida Lumber company, Auburn, Calif.

The firm already owns timber, 97 per cent of it pine, on the Klamath Indian reservation. It has purchased the Howard Salvage mill at Cave Junction, and will move it to the Chiloquin site.

Construction work will be started Monday, and the plant is expected to be in operation by Oct. 1. It will operate on a two-shifts-a-day basis for the first few months.

The company plans a 6½ acre log pond to be filled from the Sprague river, which is adjacent to the property, and will build a dry kiln and planing mill starting about the first of the year.

The mill will be located on a 30-acre site formerly owned by Chiloquin Lumber company, which went out of existence about 1941. The site is served by the main line of the Southern Pacific-Great Northern joint railroad line.

Manager for the mill has not yet been selected. Until a man is chosen for the position, the mill will be administered by Ernie DeVoe, Medford lumberman who is interested in the firm.

Simplot-DeVoe Lumber plans to cut about 25,000,000 board feet of timber in its first tract. They are now seeking a logging contractor.

Sale of lumber produced by the Chiloquin mill will be handled by DeVoe Lumber sales, of Medford.

Four Hurt, Auto Destroyed in Crash

Four people were slightly injured and an automobile was demolished in a one vehicle accident on Central Point Market rd., about 8:30 p.m. Friday.

Driver of the car was Willard Wayne Reed, 22, on leave from a ship stationed in San Diego harbor, police said. He suffered minor head injuries but was expected to be released from Sacred Heart hospital sometime yesterday. All others were released earlier after treatment. Passengers included Jimmy Leroy James, 21, also from the San Diego ship, Sharon Lee Barrett, 15, and Shelby Jean Anderson, 14, both of Ashland.

According to state police, the car was travelling east on Central Point Market rd. at a high rate of speed. Reed lost control, and the car travelled 326 feet, skidded 182 feet with the brakes locked, crossed Bullock rd., jumped a shallow pit, and knocked down a telephone pole and guy wire.

The vehicle was a total wreck, officers said.

The highest and lowest points in the United States—Mount Whitney and Death Valley—are 86 miles apart.

NOW - ACME HARDWARE

Helps you IMPROVE or REPAIR your home on EASY CREDIT TERMS!

NO CASH DOWN UP TO 24 MONTHS TO PAY! SMALL MONTHLY PAYMENTS—that fit your budget!

If you're a bit short of cash... take advantage of this CONVENIENT PAYMENT PLAN. Buy ANYTHING you need... and pay for it at only PENNIES A DAY!

START NOW! It Costs LESS Than You Think!

ACME HARDWARE 3 West Sixth Street Medford, Oregon

Galaxies and Nebulae

By J. HUGH PRUETT

Astronomer, Extension Division Oregon Higher Education System
"I collect your articles and keep them in a note book. There is only one thing I don't like about them. You put too much emphasis on the positions of the stars and little things like that. I wish you would discuss planets, stars, nebulae, galaxies, etc. Is there any difference between a nebula and a galaxy? M.F."

Many years ago at the requests of readers of this column in several states, I started giving a sky review for the first time of each month. In such a review I try to help the readers learn the brighter stars and planets. Our correspondent will find that the remaining articles discuss various topics and are generally not "positional."

Nebulae Means Mist
The word "nebula" means mist, or cloud. Scattered over the sky among the stars, there are several faint, hazy, white patches which are barely discernible to the unaided eye.

These are spoken of as nebulous objects. When telescopic aid is employed, these become much more distinct and thousands of additional ones appear.

In 1781 Charles Messier, the French astronomer, compiled a list of 103 such objects. He was especially interested in the discovery of comets and wanted the permanent nebulous objects well located so he would not be getting them mistaken for comets. One of his nebulae later turned out to be a comet. His listings are still used. Thus M27, the well-known Dumb-bell neb-

ula, is number 27 on Messier's list.

A real nebula is a mass of glowing gas and dust of very irregular form. Many of Messier's supposed nebulae were such only in appearance through the optical aid he then had available. Most of these later proved to be open star clusters, globular clusters and outside galaxies.

Used for Hazy Objects
The term "spiral nebula" was long used for hazy objects of a spiral form. The spectroscope finally revealed their light was not that of glowing gases but of stars. But until about 1924 they were thought to be members of our own star system. In that year Hubble used distance measurements that showed they were immense star systems similar to our own but far outside of ours. Later, individual stars were photographed in these distant objects. The term galaxy is now more properly used to indicate our own star system (Milky Way system) of 100,000,000,000 stars (our sun is a star)

Federal Funds Released To Insure Mortgages

Washington—(U.P.)—President Eisenhower has approved release of an additional \$35,000,000 in federal funds for insuring home mortgages.

The money will allow the federal National Mortgage Association to make advance commitments to purchase home mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration or guaranteed by the Veterans Administration.

as well as these outside systems. Our galaxy is believed to be about 100,000 light-years in diameter. This means that light traveling 186,300 miles per second requires 100,000 years to cross this immense expanse. Beyond our galaxy there is enormous space devoid of stars until the next galaxy is encountered. One of the nearest of these is M31, the Great Andromeda galaxy, 1,500,000 light-years from us. It is comparable to our own in size. The most distant galaxy revealed by the 200-inch telescope is 2,000,000,000 light-years distant.

2202 WEST MAIN
FIX-IT SHOP
NOTHING TOO SMALL
We Fix Anything
ALL WORK IS GUARANTEED

STOP!
Don't Forget To Stock Up With
PEPSI

NOW... Right in your own backyard...

Carrier Air Conditioning!

We've just been appointed dealers

Because so many merchants in this community want to air condition their places of business, we set out to provide the best money can buy. Today we are honored to announce our appointment as franchised dealers for Carrier Air Conditioning—backed by the skill and knowledge of the great institution that founded the air conditioning industry over forty years ago.

This important news means that we now offer a complete line of Carrier Store Weathermakers—the most compact and efficient self-contained unit ever built for air cooling, dehumidification, air cleaning and circulation. Our new connection also provides expert advice on the installed air conditioning of larger spaces.

Whether you plan to air condition your business—tomorrow, or in the near future—it will pay you to talk it over with our engineering experts now. We're as close to you as your telephone—ready, willing and able to give you every help.

MODERN PLUMBING & SHEET METAL CO.
REFRIGERATION DEPARTMENT
613 E. Jackson Phone 3-5368

HERTZ SYSTEM
Daily's U-Drive Medford Airport

AUTHORIZED CARRIER SALES AND SERVICE