

Marine Court of Inquiry Seeking Facts on Drowning of Six Men on Night Death March

Editor's Note: The writer of the following dispatch on the Marine training tragedy served as a United Press war correspondent with the U.S. Marines in assault landings in World War II and the Korean war.

By H. D. QUIGG
United Press Correspondent

Parris Island, S.C.—(U.P.)—The bodies of six teen-age Marine recruits lay in flag-draped coffins today while a court of inquiry got the facts from their buddies about a sergeant's "discipline" that took them on a march of death by drowning.

The three-officer court, sitting in the administration building of this 25-square-mile recruit training depot, heard testimony from numerous six-week trainees from the ill-fated 71st Platoon.

Sitting with his counsel as a party of the hearing—now in its second day—was quiet, 31-year-old S/Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon. Last Sunday at 9 p.m. McKeon, an eight year Marine veteran, marched 72 members of the platoon through the moonless, windy night into a salt creek swollen by high tide.

March Was Unscheduled
The march was unscheduled. The sergeant had no authority to order it. That is the on-the-spot pronouncement of the Marine Corps commandant, Gen. Randolph McPate.

But the recommendations of the court, after all evidence is heard, may cause the proud and combat-tested Marine Corps to take a hard look at its rigorous concept of tough peacetime training.

McKeon, who was the junior drill instructor of the platoon, made a mistake. He said he had not realized it was a tidal stream. But he told his counsel that he did lead the recruits into the water "to teach them discipline."

"Some change in techniques may be indicated" when the court gets the facts and assesses them, according to the depot commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Burger. If such is the case, he said "the changes will be made. Burger will get the court's recommendations and if there is to be a general court martial he

will order it. The present inquiry is merely a fact-finding action.

Training Seems Softer
Old timers at this famed boot camp say that training of recruits seems—if anything—to be softer than it used to be. Recruits get more privileges now, and those who know him say McKeon was not a swashbuckling type, but rather the opposite. McKeon had apparently not realized that the branch of Ribbons creek behind the rifle ranges would be so deep. He marched the men through its wading depth parallel to the main channel.

Then he swung them, two abreast, around whiplike in a reversal of direction. The tail of the whip snapped on an oblique into deep water. The last of the six privates who were drowned was located at 3:20 p.m. Tuesday by a Marine frogman diver. The body was in the same hole—10 to 15 feet deep at high tide—in which the other five were found Monday.

Pate made clear in a news conference here Tuesday that night marches are made, but only as "scheduled things." This one was unscheduled and McKeon "positively did not have authority" to order it.

Deposits Increase In 1st National Here

Deposits at the Medford branch, First National Bank of Portland, during the first quarter 1956 totaled \$30,296,139, according to Vice President and Manager C. E. Hedberg.

The total shows an increase of \$3,782,715 more than deposits during the first three months of 1955, when the total was \$26,513,424.

Loans at the Medford branch total \$12,736,008 as of March 31, compared to \$10,585,926 during the same period last year. The bank's total deposits for the three-month period were \$775,813,986, according to President C. B. Stephenson. Loans totaled \$857,757,217.

Wednesday, April 11, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—ELEVEN

Portland Transit Men, Council Set Meeting

Portland — (U.P.) — Directors of the Rose City Transit company have been asked to meet with the Portland city council tomorrow to discuss a plan of procedure for negotiating a long-term franchise.

At a meeting yesterday the council informally agreed to a 30-day extension of the current permit under which the transit company is operating.

The transit firm has asked for a new two-year permit, which would guarantee a five per cent profit by permitting fare raising or schedule changing without council approval.



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Truman in Iowa For Farm Speech

Des Moines, Ia. — (U.P.) — Former President Harry S. Truman returned to the heart of the farm belt today to give a "fighting farm speech" which party leaders hoped would spark a repeat of the 1948 Democratic victory in Iowa.

Mr. Truman, whose "give 'em hell" speeches helped put this traditionally Republican state into the Democratic column in 1948, was slated to give "a major farm policy address" at the \$25-per-plate Jackson Day dinner here tonight.

Democratic leaders, boldly claiming "We'll take the whole state" in the November elections, saw the former President's appearance as a big boost in that drive.

Democratic State Chairman Jake More likened Mr. Truman's appearance to his "give 'em hell" speech before about 100,000 persons at the National Plowing Contest at nearby Dexter, Ia., on Sept. 18, 1948.

That speech generally is regarded as the real starting point of Mr. Truman's fiery campaign that led to a surprise victory over Gov. Thomas E. Dewey in November of that year.

In that election, Mr. Truman, who had been conceded practically no chance of carrying Iowa, scored the first Democratic presidential victory in the state in 12 years — since the Roosevelt landslide of 1936.

It also was the last time the Democrats made a showing of any kind in the state.

Portland Welcome Slated for McKay

Portland — (U.P.) — Douglas McKay, resigning Interior Secretary and Republican senatorial aspirant, is scheduled to arrive in Portland Sunday and supporters say they have a big welcome planned to greet him.

Lamar Tooze, Multnomah county chairman of the Elect Doug McKay Senator committee, said, "We're planning a real welcome. No matter what time of the day or night Doug's plane touches down at Portland International airport, we will be there."

McKay is scheduled to arrive in Portland at 10:10 p.m. Sunday. He plans to stay overnight in Portland and then motor to Salem Monday morning.

Monday noon the former Oregon governor is scheduled to leave on a statewide campaign tour as he opens his bid for the nomination in the May 18 primary.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

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Our new "wonder-tablet" — AR-PAN-EX QUICKLY eases most pain from arthritis, rheumatism, neuritis or lumbago. It WILL do this — OR YOUR MONEY BACK! It's the HONEST truth — this new, scientific preparation has freed thousands of happy folks from pains of stiff aching muscles, sore joints and miserable days and nights. Those who TRIED EVERYTHING and had to GIVE UP are happy now — thanking heaven for AR-PAN-EX. It's a shame — but it's true that thousands who COULD find RELIEF, but are held by DOUBT, will continue to live in agony — look and act older than their years — be a trial to their loved ones — because they didn't have the "get to" to use a modern pain reliever miracle. It IS true — it IS here — it's AR-PAN-EX. Use this wonder pain reliever TODAY!

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Parakeet & Cage
\$4.98 Complete
A regular 4.98 quality nickel plated cage and a regular 1.98 young, active parakeet. Total value 6.96. The parakeet naturally costs you nothing.

Ladies' Quality Cotton
Pedal Pushers
Fri., 13th \$1.73 Special
Side zipper. Close fitting button leg style and full leg style. Assorted bright spring colors. 10-18. Reg. 1.98.

Clearance of Spring Suits
\$5.77 Special
Rayon linens and rayon nubby silk cottons. All two-piece. Boige, pink, blue, navy, gray, green. Sizes 10 to 18. Regular 8.90.

Ladies' Spring Blouse Clearance
\$1.33 Special
Nylons, dacrons, rayons, taffetas, dacron batistes. Short and 3/4 sleeves. Checks, stripes, prints, and solid colors. Assorted light shades. Sizes 32-38. Regular 1.98.

Girls' Blouses
\$1.66 Special
Nylons, dacrons, rayons. Short and long sleeves. Solid colors—mostly white. Sizes 3-14. Values to 2.98.

Girls' Brown or White
Strap Sandals
\$1.13 Special
Broken sizes. Values to 2.98. It's Lucky Days at Newberry's this week end.

FRIDAY the 13th your Lucky day
CLOSE OUT
Winter & Spring Jewelry
Values to 59c SPECIAL **13c**
Earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc. Drastic price reductions. Save more during Newberry's Lucky Days.

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Special **50c**
Reg. 69c value. Ideal for fishing. Light weight and cool. Sizes 6 1/2 to 7 1/2.

Boys' 50% Wool
Sport Coats
Special **1.93**
Gray and brown. Sizes 4-6-8. Regular 3.98. Save more at Newberry's.

BOYS' Sport Shirts
Reg. \$1.19 **\$1.00** Special
These imported shirts are made of blended silk and cotton. Bright embroidered motif on front. Mint, maize, tan, blue. Sizes 6-16.

Wishing Made It True
Girls' Skirts for Spring
Sizes 4 to 6x **\$1.43**
Reg. \$1.98. Special **1.43**
Sizes 7 to 14 **\$1.93**
Reg. 2.98 Special **1.93**
Rayon linens and permanent pleated orlons. Plaids, checks, and solid colors. Light shades.

"Lucky You" VALUES
Clearance Girls' Spring Dresses
Sizes 1 to 3 **\$1.83**
Reg. \$2.98. Special **1.83**
Sizes 4 to 14 **\$2.63** **\$3.93**
Reg. 3.98 & 4.98 **2 and 3**
Nylon with fancy trim. Most with bouffant net slip. Pinks, blues, yellow, green, etc.

13th JINX? NOT THESE!
FOUNTAIN SPECIAL
Junior Butterscotch Sundae
Regular 20c—
Special Thursday & Friday **13c**
1 generous scoop of ice cream with butterscotch and whipped cream.

LADIES' Shorty Pajamas & Gowns
Regular \$3.98 **\$1.93** Special
Washable challis—A mixture of spun rayon and spun acetate. Pinks and whites with floral design. Small, medium, large.

Final Shipment
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2 for **\$1.13**
Reg. 69c ea. Oregon 2-yr.-old field grown bushes and climbers. Last chance. 15 var. and colors.

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Reg. 3.98. Baby doll style. Pink, blue, yellow, white. Some with fancy trim. Sm., med., large.

BETTER QUALITY Shower Curtain
HEAVY WEIGHT
Regular \$1.98 **\$1.53** Special
Sea Shell style. Pink, green, yellow, blue, white. 6x6.
Plastic Curtains to match \$1.53
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Cats Meow EXTRAS
Authentic Plastic Model Toys
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Hardware Sale
The Greatest Hardware Sale in the History of Newberry's Tools valued to \$2.49—
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- Drop forged steel hammer with hickory handle...99c
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- Precision made vanadium drill points. Jobbers standard lengths 1/16" to 1/4"...99c
- 6-pc. screwdriver set with sturdy metal hanging rack. Unbreakable handles...99c
- 10-pc. screwdriver and socket set. Tempered nickel-plated blades and sockets...99c
- 8-inch pipe wrench. Top quality...99c
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- Saw with 5 interchangeable blades. For heavy or finish work...99c
- Drop forged steel wire cutters. Heavy, durable—extra large...99c
- Handy 7" wood plane...99c
- Sturdy 8" pliers. Forged steel...99c
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- Durable steel brace...99c
- 18" wood level. Top quality. Dependable...99c

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Bath Towels
Special **53c**
Shrink proof, color fast, super absorbency. White, green, beige, blue, yellow. Regular 79c.

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Jelly Slices
Special **23c** lb.
Pure orange flavor. Regular 29c lb. Another Lucky value!

FULL SIZE
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5 for **93c**
Reg. 5 for \$1.00
Extra absorbent, lintless, pre-shrunk, ready to use. White.

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Dress Net
72-inch Width
2 yds. **\$1.00**
White and pastel colors. For Spring formals, party dresses, etc. Regular 69c yard.

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