

Wrong Identification Brings Man Close To Murder Conviction

New York—(U.P.)—A "wrong man" nightmare ended Tuesday for Russell Erickson, 22, a playground recreation supervisor.

The end of what seemed to be a terrible dream for Erickson began when Thomas Joseph Higgins, like Erickson, tall and blond, was identified as the murderer of a 50-year-old woman and the molester of another woman.

Higgins also has confessed the murder of 19-year-old Patricia Ruland and the molestation of several other women.

Erickson, a victim of almost incredible coincidence, not only looked like Higgins but lived in the same general neighborhood that Higgins did and is engaged to the daughter of Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Donohue, 50, one of Higgins' victims.

Erickson first came under

police suspicion three months ago when Mrs. Donohue, mother of his fiancée, Barbara Campbell, was found beaten to death in her car in Brooklyn. Erickson became a suspect because he admitted under routine questioning that he had quarreled with Mrs. Donohue over the attentions he was paying her daughter.

A month later, Mrs. Mary Rasmussen, 33, reported to Brooklyn police that a tall, blond man had assaulted her. The description brought Erickson to the minds of police and is a special lineup. Mrs. Rasmussen singled him out.

Cops Spit at Him

Then, Erickson charged, he was held for five days under \$50,000 bail. "The cops spit at me when I told them I didn't know anything about any assault on any woman," he said. He finally was released on \$5000 bail.

Then, almost as suddenly as it began, the nightmare ended. Saturday Higgins confessed to Miss Ruland's murder and then volunteered that he also had killed Mrs. Donohue. And Tuesday, in another lineup Mrs. Rasmussen said Higgins was her attacker, not Erickson.

Erickson said he hoped to go back to his playground job and said he and Miss Campbell would be married in June. He was bitter about his treatment at the hands of police, but not at Mrs. Rasmussen's mistaken accusation. He said he may sue for false arrest.

Students Electing Officers at SOC Today

Ashland—Student politics are in full swing at Southern Oregon college this week, as student body elections near. Bob Myrick, student body president, said elections will be held today for all student council positions.

Students at the college took a partial holiday Monday to celebrate "Joe Ketchum Day" and to listen to prospective candidates. All classes were cancelled after 11 a.m. and students gathered in Churchill auditorium for a political rally.

53 Measles Cases Listed Last Week

Fifty-three cases of measles were reported in Medford to the Jackson county health department for the week ending April 19, according to Dr. A. Ervin Merkel, public health physician.

A total of 45 other communicable diseases were reported to the Jackson county health department last week, Dr. Merkel said.

Other cases included measles six, Phoenix four and Ashland two; pneumonia one, Ashland; influenza four, Medford two and Ashland two; chicken pox 25, Medford 14 and Ashland 11; scarlet fever one, Ashland; measles (German) one, Ashland; strep throat two, Gold Hill; impetigo two, Jacksonville and Gold Hill; mumps one, Medford; and infectious hepatitis two, Medford and Central Point.

GRANGE

Griffin Creek Grange
Griffin Creek Grange will meet for a short business session on Thursday, April 25. The meeting will be followed by a social hour of games, card playing or dancing.

Dr. Stevenson Named Conservation Week Head

Ashland—Conservation groups and persons interested in Oregon's natural resources have been invited to participate in the statewide Conservation week, May 20-26, according to Dr. Elmo Stevenson, chairman of the Conservation Week committee. Dr. Stevenson's appointment as chairman of the Jackson County Conservation Week committee was made April 18 by Gov. Robert Holmes.

Conservation Week is a campaign to focus the attention of everyone on the importance of natural resources. Dr. Stevenson pointed out that education in the wise use of our forests, minerals, soils, wildlife, and water will do much to add to their value. Governor Holmes' committee on natural resources is sponsoring the campaign.

Legislation To Curb Racketeering In Labor Expected

Washington—(U.P.)—Chairman John L. McClellan of the Senate Rackets Committee today forecast Congress may enact legislation this year to curb labor racketeering.

McClellan commended President Eisenhower's plans to submit bills to the current session of Congress to strike at misuse of union funds and racketeering in American organized labor.

The President called Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell to meet with him Thursday at the vacation White House in Augusta, Ga., to discuss the legislation.

McClellan said he believes the administration is moving as a result of his committee's sensational investigation of the Teamsters Union.

The administration has recommended three times since 1954 that Congress enact legislation to protect union health and welfare funds. However, it now is considering broader legislation.

Mitchell has said he "would like to see" legislation opening to public scrutiny the thousands of union fiscal reports filed each year with the Labor department. He also has suggested all unions be required to file the reports and that his department should have authority to investigate the reports' validity.

Mitchell also has said his department is studying a variety of other possible bills including a ban on organizational picketing. That is the use of pickets to force a firm to recognize a union before the firm's employees are organized.

Mitchell has said he is opposed to any legislation that would place unions under anti-trust laws, ban employer union agreements requiring workers to join existing unions, or curb union organizing or workers. He has not commented on proposals to restrict further union political activities.

Measure for Annual Legislative Sessions Gets House Approval

Salem—(U.P.)—The House voted 37-22 late Tuesday to submit to the people the question of whether Oregon should have annual sessions of the Legislature lasting not more than 65 days each.

House joint resolution 4 providing for the 1958 vote now goes to the Senate.

Rep. Keith Skelton, Eugene Democrat and a sponsor of the resolution, said annual sessions would produce a more professional group of legislators in closer touch with the state's problems.

Skelton said that much power in running the state was now delegated to numerous boards and commissions and that if annual sessions were held, the Legislature would return to its "rightful position" in control of the state's affairs.

Fourteen states now have annual legislative sessions and Skelton said there was a national trend toward such a system.

Rep. Shirley Field, Portland Republican, objected to the resolution on grounds it would produce a professional Legislature. "The people of Oregon don't want professional politicians," she said. "They want an amateur Legislature with representatives from all walks of life."

Rep. Robert Steward, Keating Democrat, said that an annual session of not more than 65 days would allow farmers, lumbermen and others to serve in January and February each year when they would not be able to serve if they had to attend a biennial session lasting late into the spring.

Steward said that if the resolution were adopted he favored making a state budget one session and working on general legislation the other session. He said this point could be decided by the Legislature itself.

Toronto Firm Plans Nickel Core Drilling

Cave Junction—To supervise the nickel exploration being started in the Illinois Valley is Alec Strecky of Toronto, Canada.

With the consulting assistance of Lionel Simard of the Toronto engineering firm of Simard and Knight, Strecky will plan and complete core drilling necessary to determine the extent of nickel deposits in this area.

A corporation formed of two companies, Chemical and Metallurgical Enterprises, Ltd., of Salt Lake City, Utah, and New Delhi Mines, Ltd., of Toronto, has hired the Toronto engineering company to carry out the exploring and drilling processes here. Preliminary surveying of roads on Eight Dollar and Woodcock mountains and other areas has been started, but no date has been set for drilling.

Combination offices and laboratory were opened last week in the Mulvey building, Cave Junction, with Strecky in charge. According to Simard, the exploration work will take some six months.

Jeep Recovered From Klamath River

Yreka—A jeep in which four people were killed Feb. 20, 1956, when it plunged into the Klamath river one mile south of Horse creek, was pulled from the water Monday by Siskiyou county sheriff's deputies.

The jeep had been missing more than a year since Paul Linderman, accompanied by his wife and two children, lost control of the vehicle and swerved from the water about five hours after it was first spotted Monday. Work parties, boats and a tow truck were utilized.

At intervals of several months following the crash bodies of two of the four persons killed were recovered. First one found was the body of the driver, Paul Linderman. Several months later the body of his eight-year-old daughter, Paula Linderman, was found.

Still missing are the bodies of Linderman's wife and his 16-month-old son.

Officers said the jeep was found empty about 150 feet from the bank of the river.

Spring Sing Slated At Southern Oregon

Ashland—"Spring Fever" is the theme which has been selected for the annual Southern Oregon college Spring Sing, which is held each year during senior visitation week end. This year's sing will be presented Friday, April 26, at 8 p.m. in Churchill auditorium.

Yvonne Fields, Medford, is general chairman and Miss Beverly Bennett is faculty adviser for the event. So far 10 campus organizations have entered the sing.

Awards will be made to winners in three classes, conventional, novelty and a grand sweepstakes winner. Competing groups are required to have a minimum of four members.

The public has been invited, according to Miss Fields

Cave Junction Accepts Highway Job Proposal

Cave Junction—The Cave Junction city council this week accepted the proposal for an 80-foot curb to curb highway through the city submitted recently by the state highway department.

Recorder Paul Glines was directed to contact W. C. Williams, chief of state highway engineering department, urging all possible speed in getting an appropriation for the improvement work.

Grange Notes

Lake Creek Grange
The April meeting of Lake Creek Grange was the anniversary of the Grange. A potluck supper was held at 7 p.m. and was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Harding, Upper Rogue Grange and those from Eagle Point Grange were Mr. and Mrs. Charley Hoover, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain and Vern Matthews.

Mrs. Caroline Harding is master of Upper Rogue Grange and was escorted to the master's station.

Lecturer Faye Burrell had prepared a program keeping in mind the thought of the Grange's birthday. There were three charter members present: Mrs. Nora Bradshaw, George B. Brown and Claus C. Charley. Mrs. Bradshaw recalled some of the early day occurrences. Brown gave his original reading entitled "Brownsboro." Charley gave the reading "The Bear."

Hoover gave an interesting talk on some of the new projects being conducted at his place with pears for feed for pigs. Mrs. Hoover gave the reading "The Little Toy Soldiers."

Mrs. Harding gave a report on the successful rummage sale that her Grange held in Medford. The concluding number on the program was the drawing of a house, with trees in the yard and surrounded by a fence. The drawing was done in darkness.

We were pleased to have one of our members out to the meeting that has been absent, Mrs. Bessie Arens. Mrs. Arens has been employed at the Sacred Heart hospital in Medford for many months.

Next Grange meeting will be on May 10 at 8:30 p.m.



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