

Plea of Guilty Voiced by Hugh D'Autremont

52nd Year

MEDFORD

14 PAGES

MEDFORD



TRIBUNE

Price 10 Cents

24, 1958

No. 262



TWO COMMANDERS—Capt. Sebastiano J. Fagone, commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters company of the Medford National Guard unit, shows James W. Grigsby, commander of the same unit in 1940, how to use a sniper scope at Sunday's reunion of former guard members and recruiting drive. Grigsby commanded the unit until it was activated during World War II. He was one of several former National Guardsmen who attended the reunion and open house at the Medford Armory.

Preliminary Plans For Organization Of Guardsmen Made

Preliminary plans for an organization were made at Sunday's reunion of former National Guard members in the Medford area. Several dozen former guardsmen attended the reunion.

\$900 Counted from Heart Sunday Drive

Contributions in the annual Heart Sunday door-to-door campaign yesterday totaled \$900 by noon today, according to Mrs. Manville Heisel, drive chairman. She said there still were some envelopes to be opened.

The count, being made by cashiers at the U. S. National bank, continued, she said. About 150 volunteers solicited contributions throughout medford's residential areas yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Heisel said it "appears that the one day drive will exceed the total collected during last year's Heart Sunday canvass."

Cordy Asks Checks On Thermometers

Fruit growers are asked to take their thermometers to the county extension office for checking, according to Clifford B. Cordy, county horticulturist.

Although William J. Roger, meteorologist with the U. S. weather bureau, is not scheduled to arrive in the valley until March 15, Cordy said, with the warm weather there is a possibility that he will arrive sooner.

Meter Expected To Be Installed In Sanitary District by March 1

A meter satisfactory to Medford city officials is expected to be installed in the South Bear Creek Sanitary district sewer by March 1, according to Manville Heisel, attorney for the district.

City Manager Robert Duff reported to the city council Thursday night that the contract with South Bear Creek Sanitary district had been terminated Feb. 14 because the district failed to comply with terms of the contract by not installing a meter satisfactory to the city.

Heisel said the district board of directors since last summer has had on order a meter which would meet city requirements. He said when the district first was notified the current meter was not satisfactory, the board started work to comply with the contract.

Copies of the order, which was approved by the city, Heisel said, and the shipment invoice were forwarded to the city last November. When the district received notice Jan. 7 that the contract would be terminated in 30 days if

a master meter was not installed, the district contacted the H. D. Fowler company, Seattle, the dealer handling the equipment on the west coast.

Heisel said the district was assured the meter would be installed by March 1. The meter would be assembled in Philadelphia, and will be installed by technicians from Los Angeles, he said.

Copies Forwarded
Heisel said copies of all correspondence were forwarded to the city manager's office.

Duff said the type meter satisfactory to the city would be one which would measure the flow of sewage and compute a daily total.

The district will be permitted to continue discharging sewage into the city system, Duff said. The sewage will be received and the continued connection will be permitted at the sufferance of the city, and the city may at any time hereafter without notice cause a disconnection to be made and reject any and all sewage of the district," according to the letter notify-

by Flying in Fog Blamed for Crash

Helicopter Pilots Not Trained for Fog

Red Bluff, Calif.—An Army investigator suspects the reason three big Army helicopters crashed near here Saturday with a loss of six lives was that the pilots got dizzy flying in dense fog. This was the opinion of Col. Frank G. Forest, who returned here late Sunday after a day-long investigation at the crash scene 15 miles east of

Five Army helicopters, one of the three flights transferring from Ft. Riley, Kan., to Ft. Lewis, Wash., left Medford airport about noon Sunday for Ft. Lewis after refueling.

The planes arrived Friday afternoon, but were delayed here because of bad weather conditions. The helicopters are not equipped for bad weather flying, according to Army officials.

The helicopters attracted many valley residents, and a large crowd was on hand when they left yesterday.

Red Bluff, Forest belongs to the Sixth Army's aviation section at the San Francisco Presidio.

"It is a distinct possibility that the pilots got vertigo and lost their sense of direction and speed," Forest said. "That's what happens when fliers are not trained to operate under conditions of fog or dense cloudiness."

"There were no blind flying instruments on the helicopters and the fliers were not trained or equipped to cope with such conditions."

Enveloped in Fog
The H-21 helicopters were part of a flight of seven comprising the 57th Helicopter Company, which was transferring from Fort Riley, Kan., to Fort Lewis, Wash.

At the time of the crash, they had just taken off from Chico, Calif., and were heading for Medford, Ore.

They were apparently flying at 200 to 300 feet when a thick fog bank enveloped them "before they had a chance to avoid it," Forest said.

Two of the 'copters struck a hillside, caught fire immediately and trapped their three-man crews in the flaming wreckage. The third 'copter hit a fairly flat area. The three men crawled out with only minor injuries.

Oregon Highways May Receive White Lines

Salem — Oregon may have white center lines on its highways yet.

The state Highway Department said today it had received information that a code of uniform signs for the federal interstate system had been approved by 41 states.

The sign standards include use of white center lines.



MISS SANDRA BUXTON
Selected for Elks Award



GERALD R. KIME
Most Valuable Student Award

Medford, Crater Students Selected For Elks Awards

Miss Sandra Kay Buxton, Medford High school senior, and Gerald R. Kime, senior from Crater High school in Central Point, have been selected for the Medford Elks lodge most valuable student scholarship awards, Galen R. Knox, exalted ruler, announced today.

Miss Buxton is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Buxton, 2478 Sunny View, Medford, and Kime is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Kime, 1614 Scenic ave., Central Point.

Honorable mention went to Johanna M. Dobert, Crater

High; Alma Lou Stovall and Charles Swingle, Phoenix High; Dean L. Weitman, Eagle Point; Dayle E. Hawkins, Butte Falls; and Gladys M. Beddoe and Jon A. Thompson, Medford High.

Complete for Awards
Miss Buxton and Kime will compete for \$50 cash awards for the top boy and top girl in the south district of Oregon judging, which will be at the Ashland Elk club Sunday, March 2. District judging includes winners from Coos Bay, Coquille, Brookings, Roseburg, Myrtle Creek, Medford, Grants Pass, Ashland, Klamath Falls and Lakeview.

Winners in the district competition will be judged in the state contest and an \$800 scholarship will be provided for the first place boy and girl. State winners will compete for more than \$30,000 in cash awards at the national level.

Student applicants are judged on the basis of scholarship, 60 per cent; financial record, 10 per cent; extra-curricular and out of school activities, 10 per cent; perseverance and resourcefulness, 10 per cent; and personality and leadership, 10 per cent.

Miss Buxton and Kime, as well as honorable mention students, will receive awards from the Medford Elks lodge as part of the lodge's observance of National Youth Day, May 1.

Soil Districts Set Elections

Two soil conservation districts in Jackson county will hold annual meetings and election of supervisors next month.

The Rogue Soil Conservation district will meet at 8 p.m. March 13 in the Central Point Grange hall. A report on work accomplished during the past year is scheduled.

Supervisors will be elected for four years to fill positions now held by Chester W. Jensen of Rogue River and Delmar Smith of Central Point. Qualified land owners of the district are eligible to vote.

The Sams Valley-Beagle Soil Conservation district will meet at 8 p.m. March 17 in the Eagle Point Grange hall. The annual report will be given.

Supervisors will be elected to fill positions now held by George A. Loftin, route 2, box 382A, Central Point; A. T. Wattenberg, route 1, box 74, Eagle Point; and Lester E. James, route 2, box 540, Central Point.

Two supervisors will be elected for a four-year term, and one for a three-year term.

Knowland Favors Election of Nixon

Washington — Sen. William F. Knowland (R-Calif.) has come out for Vice President Richard M. Nixon for the GOP presidential nomination in 1960—with an important qualification.

Knowland, also a possible presidential candidate, says he's for Nixon in '60 provided he himself is elected governor of California and serves his full four-year term.

Last Oct. 3 Knowland announced his candidacy for the GOP nomination for governor of California. This step was viewed by some as a prelude to a bid for the presidential nomination in 1960 or in 1964.

Knowland has declined to say whether he might seek the GOP presidential nomination. He has taken the position that he is running strictly for the California governorship with no thought beyond the governor's mansion, at least for now.

Roquebrune - Cap - Martin, France — Sir Winston Churchill's doctors today reported he is maintaining progress in his recovery from attacks of pneumonia and pleurisy.

Gill planned to fly to Klamath Falls Thursday.

The veteran legislator noted that almost half of the pilots were Democrats. "If they are thinking of bailing out and leaving me up in the air it won't work," he quipped. "I'm a pilot, too."

WEATHER
FORECAST: Rain, windy and warm through Tuesday. Low tonight 45. High Tuesday 55. TEMPERATURE: Highest Yesterday 65. Lowest This Morning 41. Prec. to 10 a.m. Today 48.

Our Skies Tonight
Sunrise 6:56 a.m.
Sunset 5:55 p.m.
Moonset 11:00 p.m.
First Quarter Feb. 26
PROMINENT CONSTELLATIONS: Orion, in the south 7:29 p.m.
Jupiter, rises 10:53 p.m.
Saturn, rises 9:22 a.m.
Venus, rises 5:11 a.m.
Mars, rises well south of Venus 4:58 a.m.

NUNN RE-SENTENCED

Scheduled to Die In Gas Chamber at Prison March 28

Governor to Review Case Immediately

Billy Junior Nunn, 29, convicted of the murder of Alvin William Eacret, 14, Klamath Falls, in April of 1956, was re-sentenced in Jackson county circuit court this morning by Judge H. K. Hanna.

He was sentenced to die in the lethal gas chamber Friday, March 28, of this year.

Nunn, who was represented by Attorney A. E. Piazza, was found guilty of the first degree murder charge last year and was sentenced to death.

He later appealed to the state supreme court on the grounds that an oral confession made by the defendant to police officers was not properly admitted. The appeal also questioned whether the court gave a complete definition and explanation to the jury of the crime of second degree murder in its instructions to them, and the admission of photos of the body of the murdered youth as evidence was questioned.

The state supreme court affirmed the conviction of Nunn Jan. 27, and also upheld the judgment of death in the case.

The victim's body was found near Tub Springs on the Ashland-Klamath Falls highway. Nunn was arrested in Alturas, Calif., on May 3.

Gov. Robert D. Holmes was notified of the state supreme court ruling and said that his legal counsel would review the case immediately. The governor, who opposes capital punishment, said he will announce his decision on possible commutation soon.

MSH Commended At Model UN

Eugene — Medford High school's delegation to the model United Nations session at the University of Oregon Friday and Saturday was one of five commended as outstanding.

Woodrow Wilson High school of Portland, which represented Pakistan, was named the best of the session.

Medford High represented U.S.S.R. During the session, a "belligerent" Soviet delegate, Eric Eitrem, was ousted for "undiplomatic" conduct. Other members of the delegation from Medford protested, and Eitrem returned.

About 415 delegates from 45 high schools participated in the mock UN meeting. The model UN is part of the Oregon International Relations league annual conference, and is sponsored by the Oregon Education association and the University of Oregon.

Jacksonville High school also participated in the session.

Other schools which were commended include South Eugene, Klamath Falls, Beaverton and Lebanon.

San Francisco — Federal mediators have renewed their efforts to find a formula that will end a three-week-old sugar strike in Hawaii.

Washington — Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.) has announced she will file this week for her third term as congresswoman from Oregon's third district.



RE-SENTENCED—Billy Nunn, left, who was re-sentenced this morning in Jackson county circuit court after being sentenced last August to death in the lethal gas chamber for first degree murder, is shown above in the custody of Sheriff's Deputy Joe Walsh. Gov. Robert D. Holmes, who opposes capital punishment, said his legal counsel would review the case immediately and will announce his decision soon on possible commutation of the death sentence.

Republicans Rally To Defend Ike on Truman's Charges

Washington — Republicans today trumpeted a massive retaliation against former President Truman's "give 'em hell" denunciation of the Eisenhower administration.

They charged that Truman in his Jefferson-Jackson Day speech here was guilty of "dime-a-dance oratory," forgetful about flaws in his own administration, insincere about civil rights and callous toward the unemployed.

President Eisenhower had no comment on Truman's attack.

His press secretary, James C. Hagerty, said when told by a reporter that the President seemed to be the only Republican with nothing to say:

"We let other people comment on it."

Avalanche Coordinated
A spokesman for the Republican National Committee confirmed that the almost unprecedented avalanche of mimeographed anti-Truman broadsides was somewhat coordinated from committee headquarters.

"We decided we should not stand for being belabored," he said.

"We felt we couldn't just take this—we should answer him."

Led by GOP National Chairman Meade Alcorn, the

Anti-Peron Lawyer Wins in Argentina

Buenos Aires — An anti-Communist, anti-Peron lawyer today became Argentina's president-elect in the country's first free elections in 30 years.

With approximately half the votes counted, Dr. Arthur Frondizi, intransigent radical, led Ricardo Balbin by 3,951,000 votes to 2,560,665. Totals were complete for the entire federal district of Buenos Aires.

Despite the fact that Frondizi once ran against a Peron ticket as a vice presidential candidate, and is an avowed anti-Communist he received support from both groups in Sunday's balloting.

Basin Streams Rise With Recent Rain

Rogue river basin streams were rising from appreciable rainfall over the entire area but the Medford station of the U. S. weather bureau reported that as of this morning "nothing dangerous is in sight."

The station said, however, further heavy rain could change the picture. Weathermen are "keeping an eye" on the streams and will issue advisories when and if they are necessary. Rainy, windy and warm weather is forecast through Tuesday for the Medford vicinity.

Rainfall from midnight up to 10 a.m. today totaled .48 of an inch. Total for Medford for the season up to that time was 18.03 inches. Normal for an entire agricultural year (Sept. 1 to Aug. 31) is 18.15.

Rogue river measurement at Dodge bridge at 88 a.m. today was 3.8 feet and rising. Flood stage is nine feet.

Life Sentence Is Given for Second Degree Murder

Also Enters Plea To Second Charge

Hugh D'Autremont, 54, who is serving a life sentence for murder in one of Oregon's most notorious crimes, made another bid for possible eventual freedom here this morning.

D'Autremont, youngest of three brothers sentenced to the state penitentiary for life for the killing of train crew members during the attempted robbery of a Southern Pacific mail car near Ashland in 1923, pleaded guilty to second degree murder. The action was taken in Jackson county circuit court before Judge H. K. Hanna. He hopes the action may result in parole.

Convicted of first degree murder in 1927, D'Autremont entered the plea of guilty to second degree murder today to one of the remaining outstanding murder indictments against him, and also to stopping a railroad train with the intent of robbery. Three pending first degree murder indictments against him were dismissed by the court on the recommendation of the district attorney, Thomas J. Reed.

Would Be The Same

In accepting D'Autremont's plea of guilty to second degree murder indictment, Judge Hanna explained that since the governor does not approve of capital punishment, the maximum sentence in either case would be the same. D'Autremont, as a result of his new plea, received a life sentence in the state penitentiary to be served consecutively with the life sentences he is now serving.

Prior to the entering of the plea of guilty to the attempted train robbery indictment D'Autremont had to be arraigned on the charge. The judge sentenced him on this complaint to not more than 20 years in the state penitentiary to be served consecutively with the two life sentences.

D'Autremont, who was represented by Miss Noreen Kelly, pleaded guilty to the indictment for the murder of Elvyn E. Dougherty, postal clerk on the ill-fated Southern Pacific train. The other three first degree murder indictments held against him were dismissed, according to the district attorney, due to the lapse of 35 years since the incident took place. He explained that prosecution of the indictments would be extremely costly.

Unsuccessful Trials

D'Autremont has tried unsuccessfully several times for parole. He had also attempted to have the five pending indictments dismissed, but his request was turned down in an opinion written by State Supreme Court Justice Hall S. Lusk last November.

Parole Possibility

Questioned about parole possibility for D'Autremont following his new plea this morning, H. M. Randall, Salem, director of the state board of parole and probation, said, "As far as the board is concerned, the sentence will have no effect on Hugh D'Autremont's chances for parole. He has been before the board on numerous occasions, and presumably will be again. His case will be considered on its merits, as is the case with all the other men in the state penitentiary."

Hugh and his twin brothers, Roy and Ray D'Autremont, were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1927. They were convicted of the train hold up and murder of four trainmen and a railway postal clerk in the Siskiyou tunnel south of Ashland on Oct. 11, 1923. They were caught after a three-year search.

Hugh, who was arrested first, was charged with a hold up and four murders. However, it took two trials before the guilty verdict was finally returned. A juror died nine days after the start of the first trial and another trial had to be scheduled. After a 17-day trial the jury returned a verdict of guilty of first degree murder.

Arrested in Ohio

Several months later Ray and Roy were arrested in Steubenville, Ohio. After their return to Jacksonville postal inspectors assigned to the case recommended to the court that the twins be permitted to enter pleas of guilty to second degree murder on one of the outstanding murder indictments.

(Continued on page 9)

