

Files of Mail Tribune Record Jury Verdict After D'Autremont Trial

Editor's note: Following are excerpts of the story of the conviction of Hugh D'Autremont, which appeared in the Mail Tribune on June 21, 1927.

After deliberating only one hour and 24 minutes, the jury in the trial of Hugh D'Autremont, charged with the murder of Brakeman Coyle O. Johnson, in the attempted holdup of train 13 in the Siskiyou Oct. 11, 1923, in which three other trainmen were murdered, found the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree and recommended a punishment of life imprisonment.

The defendant paled slightly as County Clerk Stevens read the verdict which means

he will spend the remainder of his life behind prison walls, but soon regained his composure, arose and, accompanied by the sheriff, went to the jail, where he has been since his arrival in Jacksonville many months ago.

As he passed into the jail, he turned to Arthur Perry, the Mail Tribune reporter who has covered the trial for this paper and the Associated Press, and without a change in his expression, asked: "Well, Art, what do you think of it?"

"What do you think of it, Hugh?" was the reply.

With an expression of bitterness D'Autremont rejoined:

"Think of it, I'm not supposed to think."

A moment later, when he entered his cell he called out to no one in particular but loud enough for everyone in the jail to hear:

"Guilty—as charged."

Thus ended the most sensational and cold-blooded murders in the criminal history of the Pacific Coast, and which has attracted attention throughout the country, and the world.

Hugh, as usual, was between his father and his mother when the jury filed in. Asked by Judge Thomas if they had reached a verdict, Foreman M. J. Kearney of Central Point answered "Yes," handing the written paper to County Clerk Dellilia Stevens, who read it.

As the fatal sentences rang out, Paul D'Autremont, the father, stiffened slightly in his chair, but looked straight ahead, showing no signs of the emotion he felt. Mrs. D'Autremont seemed to crumble and leaned her head on her hand, crying softly.

No words passed between Hugh and his parents as he

arose to go to the jail, which will be the first step in what the law decrees will be a life behind prison bars. There was no demonstration whatever in the courtroom.

Twins Tell of Efforts Made To Avoid Arrest

(Excerpts from the Mail Tribune of June 21, 1927)

Living the life of a hunted thing, dodging about the East to escape recognition and arrest, maintaining an aloofness in keeping with their friend-making propensities, Roy and Ray D'Autremont, charged with Hugh, their brother, with four brutal murders and the dynamiting of a mail train, finally fell into the hands of an ever-searching government.

They told of being witnesses in Ohio, of greeting the sheriff of one county as they emerged from the courtroom, of passing the bulletin board in the same court, on which were their likenesses on a government reward poster.

They told of hasty departures from this town and that, of the night when officers closed in on their home to effect their arrest only to find them flown; of a woman neighbor who told them she had "once been hostess for one of the twins" though she never had, and of Ray's wife, Hazel, and their year-old baby, Jackie Hugh.

The twins were eager for the opportunity to talk until the case itself was mentioned. "We're not crossing any bridges until we get to them," said Roy. "Better leave the case out of this."

"My only wish is that my mother and father and my brothers might be spared the heartaches this case has caused. You may say that I only wish I might bear, here," and he tapped his chest, "all the burden of this sorrow."

Accra, Ghana—UPI—Ghana plans to launch an earth satellite in 1970 or later, a university college spokesman said today.



VEEPS CHAT—Two former vice presidents, Harry S. Truman (left) and John Nance Garner, chat in Uvalde, Texas, where the latter celebrated his 90th birthday. Both were vice presidents under Franklin D. Roosevelt. Truman, who became president on the death of F.D.R., smiles as Garner tells of his days in Washington.

Date for Release Of D'Autremont Not To Be Public

Salem—When Hugh D'Autremont is released from prison, and where he goes, may never be known publicly.

H. M. Randall, secretary of the state board of parole and probation, said today this information is kept confidential in an attempt to help paroled prisoners avoid undue publicity, which might harm their chances for living a normal life on the outside.

This is particularly the case in such notorious cases as the D'Autremont case, he said. Randall stated he does not know yet when the release will be made.

D'Autremont will go through the regular pre-

lease training period, given all prisoners leaving the penitentiary, Randall said. This consists of a series of four meetings, one each week in the evenings. The first is an "orientation" discussion with staff members of the parole office and the prison discussing the newly-freed men can expect, and assisting them in getting into the right frame of mind for freedom.

The second and third meetings are addressed by a variety of "outsiders," such as labor union officials, representatives of employers, small businessmen, and others, who give the men an "outsider's slant" on what to expect in the way of attitudes, and of their new position in the world.

The fourth meeting, for parolees only, is a discussion of the rules of parole, of the dangers to watch for, and so on, with full answers given to any questions the men might have.

A job and a place to live are pre-requisites to release on parole.

Strike at Studebaker Enters Second Day

South Bend, Ind.—UPI—A strike of 6,200 United Auto Workers went into its second day at Studebaker-Packard Corp. today, and there was no sign of settlement.

No immediate meetings between union and company officials were scheduled.

Sen. Morse Defends Testimony Given in 1931 Civil Action

(Continued from Page 1)

"By way of contrast," he added, "Hatfield tried to alibi his way out of responsibility in an extremely serious situation, and it was the Supreme Court of Oregon that commented on . . . Hatfield's unreliable testimony."

Morse continued, "The undeniable fact is that Hatfield under oath testified that he didn't see the little girl because of the grass around the mail box. Photographs of the scene of the accident introduced into the record of the case showed that there was no grass that hid the mail box from full view and the Supreme Court found that the decedent was slightly taller than the mail box."

He said the jury rejected Hatfield's testimony "in respect to his false claim that the girl was concealed by tall grass. In the Miller vs. Spencer case the jury verdict was consistent with my testimony. I admitted that I did not see the other car; I admitted that the car I was driving had veered to the left of the middle of the highway."

Occurred At Night

Morse said, "The accident occurred at night. My inability to see the Miller car was caused by the fact that the state police had parked their car on the side of the road at right angles to the road in order to throw the headlights of the police car on another car on the other side of the road that had been involved in another accident a few minutes before. Upon a signal from the police I proceeded through the beam of light shown across the highway by the police car and in so doing I drove too far over to the left and hit the Miller car which was coming from the opposite direction. I testified truthfully as to the approximate cause of the accident. The fact that I didn't see the Miller car was the truth and is uncontradicted in the record of the case."

Testimony Said Factual

He said "Hatfield's testimony was found to be unreliable. My testimony was factual." He said attempts by "apologists for Hatfield" to claim the cases are similar "is a good example of the all too common journalistic fallacy of false analogy."

"To my critics may I say good-naturedly—better Iuck next time, this time you have flunked in logic. I am perfectly willing to let the official

Pet Dog Kills Son of Master

Erie, Pa.—UPI—A six-month-old pet German Shepherd dog attacked and killed his master's three-year-old son Monday in a barn at the family's home in Harborcreek.

The dog bit at Michael Kaminski's face and neck and then dragged the child to the rear of the barn. Coroner W. W. Wood said the boy died from loss of blood.

court records of the two cases speak for themselves."

After the Morse campaign attack on Hatfield, J. O. Bailey, former chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, said "in every law suit there are two sides . . ." Bailey added "no two witnesses see the same situation exactly alike."

Hunter, Lost Since Sunday, Shows Up

Vancouver, Wash.—UPI—A 25-year-old Ridgefield hunter, Kenneth Weber, showed up safely Monday after being reported lost in the Yaocolt Burn area east of Yaocolt Sunday.

The man apparently became separated from his hunting party Sunday morning, according to the Clark county sheriff's office here.

The halo sometimes seen around the moon is caused by refraction of light from ice crystals in the upper atmosphere.



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Lawyers Exchange Bitter Words During D'Autremont Trial

(Excerpts from the Mail Tribune of June 21, 1927)

The fate of Hugh D'Autremont, charged with the murder of Charles O. Coyle Johnson during the Siskiyou tunnel holdup, drew closer to the jury this morning when United States District Attorney George Neuner approached the close in the final argu-

ment for the state.

The fiery prosecutor turned once, his face livid, upon Defense Attorney Collier and shouted: "Why did you put in a self-declaration?"

"Because it was testified to," replied Collier.

Neuner then sprang before Attorney Gus Newbury and shouted:

"And you said we were basing an inference on an inference."

"Talk to the jury, not to me," snapped Newbury. "I'll talk to you outside."

"I'll talk to you inside," shouted Neuner, "where I like to talk to you, and I'll talk outside outside to you."

The court calmed the rising storm.

The charge of the defense that the evidence was framed nettled Neuner, and he constantly left his train of arguments to hurl words at defense counsel.

With scathing sarcasm, Neuner flayed what he called "the ridiculous reasoning of the defense" and spoke directly at defense attorneys as he roared his charges.

"It doesn't bother Hugh any more to have lawyers fling stinging accusations in his face."

Depot Crowds Dodged by Ruse

(Excerpts from the Mail Tribune of June 21, 1927)

Manacled to Sheriff Ralph Jennings and Deputy Lewis Jennings, Roy and Ray D'Autremont, Siskiyou tunnel bandit suspects arrested in Steubenville, Ohio, arrived in Medford this morning on the 8:45 train and were immediately rushed to the county jail at Jacksonville before a milling crowd could gain a glimpse of the world-hunted twins.

In leaving the train a clever ruse was used in giving the officers freedom from the crowd. A Negro porter on the front end of the last car motioned as if to indicate that the officers would leave the train at that end. Immediately the crowd rushed to that point, while the officers and prisoners calmly left by the rear, going immediately to the waiting cars.

Ashland Man Recalls Train Holdup Knowledge

Ashland—L. C. Ostrander, Southern Pacific agent here, recalls vividly his first knowledge of the Southern Pacific mail train dynamiting in tunnel 13 of the Siskiyou mountains. Roy, Ray and Hugh

D'Autremont were later convicted at Jacksonville of the crime.

Ostrander said he was "second trick" telegraph operator in a tiny shack at Siskiyou in 1923. On the day of the attack Ostrander said he awakened in his rooms and wandered down to the Masonic hall in Ashland. Friends kidded him because he, a railroad employee, knew nothing of the "big train robbery."

"Whistles were blowing and there was quite a hubbub in Ashland," Ostrander said. He added that the national guard was called into the manhunt.

Ostrander got into the thick of things as soon as he reported for his "trick." The bulk of his messages from Siskiyou in succeeding days concerned search developments. And for two weeks Ostrander and his fellow telegraphers hosted up to 10 militiamen, who daily scoured the mountains in a vain search for the men who were not captured until four years later.



NEW SIDEKICK—Officer Ben Palumbi of the Pittsburgh, Pa., police force meets his new partner, a 16-month-old German shepherd named Fullback von Lill. From now on, Fullback will live and work with Officer Palumbi. The city intends to put several more dogs into police work.

Pressure on CAB Will Be Probed

Washington—UPI—House influence investigators promised to produce testimony today showing behind-the-scenes pressures on the Civil Aeronautics board during scrambles for multi-million dollar airline routes.

Chairman Oren Harris (D-Ark.), of the House Influence Investigating subcommittee said the subcommittee would dig into several "sample cases"—particularly the award of the New York-Miami "Gold Coast" route to Northeast Airlines, Inc.

The subcommittee summoned for questioning CAB Chairman James R. Duffee, other board members and CAB staff officials. It dropped until Wednesday its investigation of whether applicants for Pittsburgh TV channel 12 deliberately manufactured rumors that former Chairman George C. McConaughy of the Federal Communications commission put price tags on his vote. Rep. John Bell Williams (D-Miss.), a subcommittee member, said all the rumors appeared to "funnel to Earl Reed," president of Television City, Inc., the successful applicant.



WILL CUT BUDGET?—President Eisenhower is shown with House Republican leader Joseph Martin (right) as Martin leaves the White House after breakfast with the President. The Massachusetts congressman told newsmen later that Mr. Eisenhower would make tremendous efforts to cut spending in the 1960 fiscal year, to avoid increasing the government debt.

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