

D'Autremont Reminisces In Hospital

Critically Ill Parolee Appreciates Prayers

(Editor's note: The name D'Autremont is well known in southern Oregon. Usually it brings up connotations of the train robbery and murder in Tunnel 13 in the Siskiyou in the early 20s, and the trial of the three D'Autremont brothers in the Jackson county courthouse in Jacksonville in 1927. But what of the human beings behind the name? Hugh D'Autremont, youngest of the three brothers, recently was paroled from the Oregon state penitentiary after 31 years. He found a job in the bay area, was planning to get married to a girl he first met while still a prisoner, and who had waited for him for 12 years. Then he was stricken by illness, and remains on the serious, perhaps "incurable," list. A poignant picture of the man is painted in the following interview. The writer is Mrs. Edward C. Kelly of Medford, who visited Hugh in San Francisco and prepared this article for the Mail Tribune. As Mary Greiner she covered the D'Autremont trial nearly 32 years ago for the old Medford News, and later wrote many "follow-up" stories about the D'Autremonts for the Mail Tribune. She met her future husband, now a circuit judge, when he was a young attorney watching the trial. They have been friends of Hugh D'Autremont since that time.)

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By MARY GREINER KELLY

San Francisco—"I still have hope . . . I appreciate the prayers of my friends."

Hugh D'Autremont, a thin sliver of a man with greying hair, large, intense blue eyes, skin almost transparently pale from his violently painful and critical illness, forced a wan smile of welcome as he lay beneath the rumpled coverlet of a two-bed ward in San Francisco General hospital.

It was the latest stop in a series of wards (mostly larger) to which he had been transferred following exploratory examinations, x-rays, biopsies and temporary treatments preliminary to possible surgery.

The incredibly large hospital, serving both the city and county of San Francisco, consists of several tall buildings, staggered in and out along an entire city block, a half-hour bus ride from downtown San Francisco.

Although news of his critical illness reached the newspapers only a week ago, Hugh D'Autremont has been a patient there since he was suddenly stricken nearly a month ago. It came a month after he was paroled from the Oregon penitentiary after serving 31 years—a week after he had landed a job as linotypist on a big city newspaper. He was planning to get married as soon as he saved enough from his first pay checks, to a girl who has waited for him for 12 years.

At First, Bitterness and Pain

"I guess I was bitter at first . . . the pain . . . the vicious cruelty of the timing . . . after the first smile of fate upon me in 31 long years." His thin hand smoothed out the worried furrow of his forehead. He stared at it silently for a long moment. "We were so happy, so hopeful, planning our marriage . . . the fellows on the job, so understanding, so helpful and kind . . . future looked so bright. Then this struck suddenly, without warning. The date? Let's see . . . February 14 . . ." His breathing was labored.

Two young interns came into the room, smiling brightly, warmly, joshing the two patients. They were going to remove the draining tube. It should make him more comfortable. No need for the visitor to leave the hospital . . . just take a seat out in the hall. It would be over in five minutes. It was. They came out, smiled and waved, went into the next ward.

In the brief interval the other patient in the ward had been moved out. Hugh D'Autremont's bed had been rolled up so that he was in a semi-reclining position. He looked brighter.

"I can move a little now, with that thing out," he said. "The doctors are young, but they work hard—they're doing their best."

Reminiscences of 31 Years

There were reminiscences over the 31 years—to incidents at the famous trial in the little court room at historic Jacksonville. He mentioned his defense attorneys—Fred Smith of Eugene and his young partner Dave Evans; the famous John Collie of Portland, who had been a prosecutor for many years, only to become one of the most successful defense trial attorneys in the northwest; Medford's colorful Gus Newbury who couldn't resist quoting Shakespeare. All are dead now.

There was the prosecution—U.S. Attorney George Neuner with his thundering voice; Medford's vigorous George Roberts . . . "Once George noticed I was out of cigarettes . . . came over in a recess to offer me one of his . . . talked to me a little . . . I've never forgotten." . . . Jackson County's District Attorney, Newton Chaney, Deputy County Neilson . . . Dr. E. O. Heinrich, famous criminologist from Berkeley, California, real star of the prosecution. Neilson and Heinrich are dead.

There were the endless parade of county and city police, special investigators, postal inspectors. Most dogged of all were the Southern Pacific inspectors—two of whom came up to the penitentiary periodically over the years, ostensibly to visit Hugh, but "actually to check my greying hair, the lines in my face . . . to be sure I was paying my debt to society." A wry smile.

There was poignant little Jack Vick, 16 year old from Russellville, Arkansas, who had lied about his age to get into the Army. He landed in Hugh's outfit over in the Philippines, and worshipped the ground he walked on. Later, when Hugh was taken into custody, following a tip from a discharged soldier who had returned to the states, Jack Vick confessed his true age, came back on the ship that carried Hugh out to Alcatraz prison.

Stood By 'My Buddy'

The Arkansas lad went home to his parents. Later, determined to "stand by my buddy" he hitchhiked across the country, arriving in crowded Jacksonville wearing khaki trousers, a blue denim jacket, his scuffed shoes worn through. Frightened, suspicious, grim, the teenage boy nevertheless took the stand as a "character witness."

(Postscript. A few years later, Jack, restless, lonesome, on his way again across the country to visit Hugh again in the penitentiary, attempted to ride the rods on a freight train, dozed and fell. His legs were severed. As he was dying he told the nurses: "Hugh will be so disappointed not to see me. He was the best friend I ever had.")

A small boy wistfulness and a hint of tears came with the mention of his mother—Bell D'Autremont. She had come up from Lakewood, New Mexico, as soon as he was brought back from the Philippines. She had been brought to Alcatraz prison by investigators to persuade him to "confess." She stood by him during the trial—took the stand.

Later Belle, whose husband earlier had deserted and divorced her, sold her home and small store in Lakewood, moved to Salem to be near her son. She ran a rooming house. Did pretty well too. Then business fell off and she was going to lose the property. Hugh, who had managed to save \$1,000 from running the prison print shop, and she was doing publication work for another state institution. Two months ago she thought their dream had come true.

Fiancee Had Waited 12 Years

Today—every day—down the long, winding corridors of the large, impersonal hospital, walks a slight, pretty, gentle young woman who wants to marry Hugh D'Autremont—make a home for him. She is well educated, sensitive gifted. She has waited for him for 12 years. She had first met him while he was running the prison print shop, and she was doing publication work for another state institution. Two months ago she thought their dream had come true.

On January 9 of this year, Hugh was paroled from the (Continued on Page 11)



VERY CLOSE SHAVE—This truck stalled on a railroad crossing at Willoughby, Ohio, and had the front of its cab sliced off by a passing train. The driver, Richard Snyder, sat there while 56 railroad cars passed within inches of his face, but he was not injured. Here he demonstrates the position he found himself in. The crossing gateman was charged with negligent operation.

'Uninsured Motorist' Bill Passed by House

School District Consolidation Vote Date to be Set Soon

Election date for voting on the proposal to consolidate five school districts with Medford may be set this week, Alf B. Mckvold, county school superintendent, said today. Mckvold said he is contacting the officials of Lone Pine, Griffin Creek, Jacksonville and Ruch districts and the remaining portion of Howard district, to see when an official vote in each of the districts, including Medford, may be taken on the consolidation proposal. The county boundary board, of which Mckvold is secretary, would have to set the date after the various districts affected concur, he explained.

Measure Gives Motorists More Protection

Salem—UPI—The Oregon House today passed and sent to the Senate the so-called "uninsured motorist" bill after about an hour's debate. Vote on the measure was 36-21 with all but two of the negative votes coming from Democrats. The measure is designed to give motorists more insurance protection by requiring insurance companies to include a clause in their liability insurance policies protecting the driver from injury or death received at the hands of uninsured or hit-run drivers. The plan was favored by Gov. Mark Hatfield in his inaugural address.

Unreported Facts Given by Father

Doyle G. McCall, 523 Haven st., father of Jane Sue McCall, 5, who was struck by a city police car last Thursday afternoon on Summit ave., said today that some facts regarding the incident had not been reported. The father said that the child was crossing Summit ave. from east to west at the time of the accident. With the police car traveling south on Summit, he said that his daughter on her bicycle had partly crossed the street at the time of the incident. Skid Marks He also stated that skid marks made by the patrol car were clearly visible on the pavement. Patrolman Donald Lee Pursell, who was driving the police car, reported in a signed statement that the child emerged suddenly from behind a parked car which blocked his view. He said he was traveling between 20 and 25 miles per hour.

Midwest Stagers Under Heavy Snow

By United Press International The snow-weary Midwest staggered today in the wake of a near blizzard which stalled trains, marooned thousands of persons and cut communications. The week-end storm, powered by 50 to 80 m.p.h. winds, piled up paralyzing snows from Nebraska northeastward through Michigan. It roared into eastern Canada during the night, but strong winds continued to batter the lower Great Lakes region and eastern Upper Michigan, where snow depths averaged 40 to 50 inches.

Bond Election Date Expected Tonight

Ashland—Election date for the proposed junior high school bond issue will be set tonight, said Stanley Jobe, Ashland school district superintendent. He said today that the Ashland school board will meet with architects tonight to learn of estimated cost of the building. Previously, Jobe had said the bond election would probably be held sometime between April 1 and 10.

The school would be located on a 22-acre site east of Walker ave. and between the Southern Pacific tracks and East Main st. **DOW-JONES AVERAGES** New York—UPI—Dow Jones closing stock averages: 30 industrials 608.88, off 6.81; 20 rails 162.62, off 1.63; 15 utilities 93.97, off 0.31; 65 stocks 210.07, off 1.99. Sales today were about 4,420,000 compared with 4,880,000 Friday.

Nasser Target of Khrushchev Charges

Three Children Perish in Flames At Halfway Home

Halfway, Ore.—UPI—Three tiny children perished Sunday in a fire at their home. The children had gone into an upstairs closet to try to escape the flames. The victims were identified as James Warren Yardly, 10 months; Kittatina Kay Yardley, 2 years, and John William Yardley, 3 years. They were the children of Mr. and Mrs. Warren B. Yardley. Police Chief Ellis Makison said the children had been put to bed in the upstairs of the home. He said they may have been playing with matches. Huddled in Closet The children were found huddled in the closet. One had been burned and the others overcome. Firemen worked on them for 2½ hours with resuscitator equipment. A 16-year-old brother, Kenneth, had put the children to bed and then gone into the yard to paint a bicycle. A neighbor woman noticed the fire and she and Kenneth tried to enter the home but were driven back by the flames. The parents were not home at the time. Halfway is about 50 miles east of Baker.



Soviet Premier Says Annexation Of Iraq Sought

Beirut, Lebanon—UPI—Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev accused United Arab Republic President Gamal Abdel Nasser today of trying to annex Iraq into the UAR, adding fuel to a new Mideast crisis. The charge was made in Moscow at a celebration marking the signing of a new Soviet-Iraqi technical aid agreement. Khrushchev's remarks were broadcast by the official Soviet Tass News Agency. They came at a time when the steadily deteriorating relations between the UAR and Iraq hit a dangerous new low with violent anti-Iraqi demonstrations in Cairo. **Sacrifice Blood** The UAR war minister told a crowd of 300,000 shouting demonstrators there today that the people of his country "are ready to sacrifice their blood for the sake of the Iraqi people."

Strong Support for Foreign Aid Funds Urged by Herter

Washington—UPI—Acting Secretary of State Christian A. Herter told Congress today U. S. foreign policy will become "ineffective" unless President Eisenhower's \$3,929,995,000 foreign aid program gets strong support. He made the statement in opening the administration's drive to sell the program to a reduction-minded Congress. Testifying as the first witness at House Foreign Affairs Committee hearings, Herter said the mutual aid program is "fundamental to the peace of the world, our own future welfare aid progress, and in the years ahead the survival of our American nation and our American way of life as we know it."

Army Engineers Begin Work on Summit Stockade

All preliminary work at the Centennial stockade on the Siskiyou mountains was completed Sunday by members of the 417th Engineer Brigade, Army reserve, according to Brig. Gen. William H. Prentice, commander. The work completed Sunday made way for the laying of concrete forms and plumbing construction for the interior building, it was reported. Volunteer personnel from the local carpenters and plumbers unions will work at the site during the next two weeks, General Prentice said. April 5 the reserve members will construct the frame of the stockade. The stockade, the first built by the Army in more than 60 years, will be a replica of an early-time fort, complete with lookout posts. The ten-foot high walls will have a perimeter of 150 feet with a catwalk around the walls' interior. Forty members of the local unit worked at the project Sunday, with reserve mess personnel cooking and serving dinner at the site. The structure will serve as a welcome booth for tourists during Oregon's Centennial year.

Bids on Project Are Above Estimate

R. A. Heintz Construction Company was apparent low bidder on revised plans for the proposed Eastover terrace sanitary sewer when bids were opened at city hall this morning. But the Portland firm's bid of \$10,003.25 is well above the engineer's estimate \$8,190. Other bidders are F. L. Somers, Medford, \$11,771, and H. W. Houston, Portland, \$11,102.75. Plans for the project were revised previously when bids on the original plans were considered too far above the engineer's estimate. The earlier plans called for installation of a pumping station at Eastover Terrace dr. and Hillcrest rd., while the present plans call for a gravity line from Eastover terrace to a line on the Rogue Valley Country club's property. The city council is expected to consider the bids Thursday evening.

Proposed Ordinance Provisions Aired

Provisions of Medford's proposed ordinance for licensing and regulating private detective and merchant patrol agencies were discussed at city hall this morning by city officials and agency representatives. City Attorney Joel B. Reeder discussed various sections of the ordinance and heard recommendations for changes. Representing the city police department were Chief of Police Charles P. Champlin, Detective Lt. Lyle Perkins, Lt. Orlo McGee and Sgt. Leo Mitchell. Representing the agencies were J. H. Tizekker, Western Detective; L. A. Starkey, Oregon Detectives; E. R. Taylor, Alliance Detectives; Ted Culver, Pacific Confidential Investigators; Ray Koch, Forest Green Detectives; and Gene Hugo, self-employed private investigator from Eagle Point.

Mission Dedication Planned for Tonight

Dedication of the Medford Gospel Mission will be held this evening at 7:30 o'clock at Hedrick Junior High school cafeteria. The Rev. Jimmy Wahibrink, superintendent of the Yakima, Wash., Mission, and president of the North Pacific district of the International Union of Gospel Missions will be principal speaker. Prior to the service a potluck dinner will be held. All interested persons may attend the event. Also present will be superintendents of Missions in Klamath Falls, and Bakersfield, Fresno, and Sacramento, Calif. Open house was held at the Mission at 33 South Front st. Sunday afternoon and today from 2 until 5 o'clock.

Local Stations for Air Sampling Set Up

Fourteen air sampling stations were set up in the Medford area last week and are now in operation on a trial basis, city officials reported today. The stations are to be supplemented after the two-week trial period by high velocity samplers, these officials said. The air sampling is being undertaken along with smoke surveys under a joint program of the city and the state air pollution authority. State engineers set up the stations last week in company with a city hall employee.

Medford Man Killed In One-Car Accident

Grants Pass—UPI—Elmer Bert Estelle, 78, of route 2, box 209N, Medford, died in Josephine General hospital here Sunday night from injuries suffered in a one-car accident Sunday morning. State police said Estelle's pickup truck left Highway 99 about six miles north of here and rolled down a 130-foot embankment into a gully. Police said they could not determine cause of the accident.

Hatfield Denies Plans To Move Air National Guard Fighters To Salem

Salem—UPI—Gov. Mark Hatfield says he has no plans to move Oregon's Air National Guard jet fighters from Portland to Salem. Hatfield visited President Eisenhower Saturday to discuss an assortment of problems involving Oregon. He said he invited the president to dedicate The Dalles dam on the Columbia river next summer but the president made no commitment. Hatfield also spent 90 minutes discussing Oregon problems with Reps. Edith Green and Al Ullman, Democrats, and Walter Norblad, Republican. He had breakfast with Sen. Richard L. Neuberger. Sen. Wayne Morse and Rep. Charles O. Porter were not in Washington. where there are adequate facilities. The Army guard unit have light, liaison planes. Hatfield visited President Eisenhower Saturday to discuss an assortment of problems involving Oregon. He said he invited the president to dedicate The Dalles dam on the Columbia river next summer but the president made no commitment. Hatfield also spent 90 minutes discussing Oregon problems with Reps. Edith Green and Al Ullman, Democrats, and Walter Norblad, Republican. He had breakfast with Sen. Richard L. Neuberger. Sen. Wayne Morse and Rep. Charles O. Porter were not in Washington.

WEATHER	
FORECAST: Considerable high cloudiness tonight and Tuesday. Mild temperatures. Low tonight 33. High Tuesday 76.	TEMP.
Highest Yesterday 68	Lowest This Morning 31
Our Skies Tonight	
Sunset today 6:18 p.m.	Sunrise tomorrow 6:22 a.m.
Moonset tomorrow 1:17 a.m.	First Quarter March 17
PROMINENT STAR	Rigel, in the southwest 8:21 p.m.
VISIBLE PLANTS	
Mars, north of the Moon.	Venus, in the west 7:27 p.m.
Jupiter, rises 12:14 a.m.	Saturn, low in southeast 3:47 a.m.