

Material Witnesses

Two Men Commended for Providing Public Service

(Continued from Page 1) getting a bad deal. Mac said: "There was a murder and a killer was loose. We report it and we get four months in jail apiece. Is that justice?" He added that: "If it was not for us police might still be looking for the killer."



LOTS OF SPARE TIME—Norman James (Mac) McInnis, 47, a transient, has had lots of spare time on his hands in the Medford city jail during the past three months. Mac is one of two men being held as state's material witnesses in the first-degree murder trial of Leonard Eugene Nelson, 22, who is accused of beating another transient to death in a downtown Medford parking lot Aug. 13.

The fact that the two men are transients has more to do with their being in jail than anything else.

District Attorney Thomas Reeder explains it this way: "These men are being held as material witnesses due to the fact that they are essential witnesses to the state's case against Leonard Eugene Nelson."

Both have performed a public service to the citizens of this county and the state and are to be commended for this.

"However, due to the fact they are transients, both having prior convictions of crimes, including drunkenness, the state feels it necessary to secure their presence in Medford until the case is disposed of."

Reeder added that: "This situation would most likely never occur to a permanent resident or any responsible person."

The charge is bondable with bail set at \$2,500 for each man. But, Mac points out, "What chance do we have of raising that kind of money?"

The two men had been in Medford only three hours when the crime occurred. They came here from Redding, Calif., intending to join in the valley pear harvest.

Both men figured they could earn themselves a stake that would carry them through the winter months. Neither man has any dependents, as such, and both lived most of their lives in California and the southwest U.S.

It was to be their first stay in Medford but neither man expected the sort of reception that he received.

They were first lodged in the county jail as they are a county responsibility. But, after spending 12 days there they tried both of the food and of being confined to a cell all the time and appealed to the district attorney.

Reeder then arranged with Police Chief Charles P. Champlin for the two men to be transferred to the Medford jail where they would be able to have more freedom.

At the city police department the men are only technically in jail. The large cell door is locked only when there are other prisoners in the jail.

During the daytime the men can roam freely about the city hall and the parking lot at the rear of the building. They are more or less "on their honor."

To pass the time and break the monotony the two men assist the regular janitor in his duties. The work is strictly voluntary on their part.

Mac and Virgil are unhappy with their predicament but are quite pleased with the treatment they are getting at the city hall.

Many of the police officers do not even know why the two men are there. Just the other day, Mac said, one of the officers asked him: "Say, what are you guys in here for? You ought to be getting out pretty soon, shouldn't you?"

Under state law the men receive \$1.50 per day while in confinement. Although something, this is a far cry from the money the two men would have made in the harvest.

Mac said that when he gets paid for his confinement it will just about cover the back rent he owes on a cabin near Redding where he lives during the winter months.

What bothers the two men most is the monotony and the loss of wages. Both men are admittedly no strangers to jails, but they don't like being subjected to these unpleasantness just because: "We did what every good citizen should do."



IT'S SOMETHING TO DO—Virgil Payne Bennett, 47, is the other state's witness in the murder trial of Leonard Eugene Nelson. Virgil and Mac help the regular janitor in his chores around the city hall, because "it's something to do." The work is strictly voluntary. The two men have been in custody since Aug. 13 and will continue to be until the case comes to trial Dec. 5.

Senate Committee Reverses Stand; Reappoints Lemon

Portland — The reappointment of Dean E. B. Lemon to the State Scholarship Commission, rejected earlier, was approved Friday afternoon by the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments.

Republicans charged political maneuvering to help State Sen. Monroe Sweetland, D-Milwaukie, in his campaign for secretary of state.

Friday's lone dissenting vote was cast by State Sen. William Grenfell, D-Portland. The earlier vote to reject Lemon was 3-2. Lemon is a former dean of administration at Oregon State college.

Sweetland, chairman of the Senate Education committee, issued a statement shortly after the rejection supporting Lemon. He wrote to State Sen. Dan Dimick, D-Roseburg, asking that the matter be reopened. Dimick agreed.

Sweetland appeared Friday to speak in Lemon's behalf.

Sen. John D. Hare, R-Hillsboro, said during Friday's meeting: "A grave injustice was done to Dean Lemon by a majority of this committee in turning down my motion that his appointment to the State Scholarship Commission be confirmed. I cannot refrain from stating that it has taken public opinion and apparently the desire of Sen. Sweetland to gain publicity in his campaign . . . to cause the committee to again give consideration to the disservice to the state of Oregon."

Members of the committee voting in favor of Lemon Friday were Hare, Dimick, Sen. Eddie Ahrens, R-Turner, and Sen. G. D. Gleason, D-Portland.

Deadline Nov. 18 for Applying for Exam

The Navy has announced that Nov. 18 is the closing date for high school seniors and graduates to submit applications to take the Navy's Reserve Officer Training Corps examination.

The examination will be given on a nationwide basis Dec. 10. Young men who successfully pass the necessary competitive tests and examinations are eligible to earn a regular Navy commission while studying at a civilian college of their choice having in college, the Navy will pay all tuition, fees and books and an annual retainer of \$800 for four years.

Application forms are available at high schools, or the Medford Navy recruiting station.

Washington — The Treasury reports it successfully refinanced most of the \$10.8 billion of the national debt coming due Nov. 15.

Funds Collected for Improvement of Road

Funds have been collected for improvement of Clover lane, residents reported Friday.

Improvements of the private road will start in the near future. Residents living on the road met Thursday night and discussed the condition of the road.

Mrs. Paul Betz, one of the residents, said efforts to have the road improved received the support and cooperation of all the people contacted. Other members of the committee which solicited funds for improvements include Mrs. Hack Caster, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barber, and Mr. and Mrs. Stan Shafer.

Positions Available in Civil Service

Civil service commission officials have announced examinations for writing and editing positions and for securities investigators. In addition, applications are also open for positions in the mechanical trades and skilled occupations in the Panama Canal zone.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from L. B. Nelson at the Medford post office.

A new Japanese binocular takes pictures, too. The camera has an f3.7 lens and a 30-exposure magazine.

East Germans Capture Oregon Soldier

Bonn — A former East German border patrolman confirmed the Communists arrested an American soldier from Seaside, Ore., last Sept. 1, the West German Interior Ministry said Friday.

The ministry said the patrolman, Wolfgang Steffen, 21, who defected Oct. 7, reported he received a reward for aiding in the "capture" of Cpl. Victor W. Rue, 33.

Two Persons Sought in Newhouse Shooting

Portland — Portland police were reported to be looking for two persons in connection with the Oct. 18 shooting of Oregonian production manager Donald Newhouse.

According to reports two persons who lived in the Newhouse neighborhood for months moved away a week ago.

ENDORSES SMITH

Salem — The Independent Salem Capital Journal Friday endorsed Republican Elmo Smith for the U.S. Senate.

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4-H NEWS

K. P. Cooks Cynda Williams, president, called the meeting of the K. P. Cooks 4-H club to order. Roll call was taken as each member called out something they had made. Cynda Williams made peanut butter cookies for refreshments and as a project. Peggy Sheppard made lemonade. Kathy Glass gave a demonstration on the proper form of table setting. The next meeting will be Nov. 19. Nancy Bridenstine, Reporter

SMALLEST HEARING AID. GEORGE E. WHITE HEARING AIDS 38 So. Central MEDFORD, OREGON

A. L. "Tex" Nash Says... ELECT PAUL B. RYNNING County Commissioner. He has had wide experience in county business. Paul Rynning has proven his qualifications as an administrator. Paul Rynning advocates protection of resources. Paul Rynning favors acquisition and development of recreational areas. Paul Rynning will continue a good county road program. Tex Nash Says— Pull for PAUL and VOTE 123-X. Pd. Pol. Ad. by A. L. "Tex" Nash, 2075 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford

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