

Rockaway Estimates Damage by Freak Wave at Close to \$100,000



WITNESSES SET FREE — Norman James McInnis (left) and Virgil Payne Bennett smiled as they left the Medford city police department last night after spending 102 days in jail as material witnesses to a crime. The men, both transients, said they would spend Thanksgiving "just wherever we happen to be at the time."

Witnesses Held For Trial Are Released by DA

By R. GREG NOKES
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
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Thanksgiving is a day for many persons to be thankful for many things. But few persons could be more thankful today than two men who gained their release from the Medford city jail last night.

The men, Norman James (Mac) McInnis, 47, and Virgil Payne Bennett, 47, were given their freedom after spending more than three months in the city jail on charges of being material witnesses to a crime.

McInnis and Bennett were released after Larry Gene Noah, 20, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in circuit court yesterday and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Noah admitted that on the night of Aug. 13 in downtown Medford, he beat to death William Carley Campbell, 55, a transient.

McInnis and Bennett had been witnesses to the slaying. They reported the crime to police and aided in the capture of Noah.

It was acknowledged that the two men performed a valuable service to the community. But, because the state ordered the men confined until the trial — originally scheduled for Dec. 5 — was over.

Nelson was first charged with first-degree murder, but yesterday District Attorney Thomas Reeder allowed him to enter a plea of guilty to the lesser charge. There was no longer any reason to keep the two material witnesses around, and Reeder ordered them released.

Before the two men left the city jail last night, they told a Mail Tribune reporter they harbor no grudges against anyone. In fact, they had nothing but praise for the city of Medford and the people in it. Most of all they praised the police department and Police Chief Charles P. Champlin.

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Nelson Sentenced To Life in Prison After Guilty Plea

Larry Gene Noah, alias Leonard Eugene Nelson, 20, transient, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Oregon state penitentiary by Circuit Judge Edward C. Kelly yesterday.

He pleaded guilty to a charge of second degree murder, Noah was originally charged with first degree murder in connection with the death of William Carley Campbell, 55, in Medford last Aug. 13.

Noah's attorney, Paul Haviland, Medford, who told Judge Kelly Nelson's real name was Noah, requested the reduced charge, the penalty for which is life imprisonment.

Haviland told the court he consulted with Dr. James Luce, neuro surgeon, and Dr. Harry Danielson, psychiatrist, and learned that the youth had "organic brain damage."

Ceremonies Set for Naval Reserve Unit

Public ceremonies will be held Monday, Nov. 28, at Hedrick Junior High school for presentation of national and district awards to Navy Reserve Electronics Division 13-5, Medford.

The division won first place among 27 competing divisions in the 13th Naval district, which includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

In national Navy reserve unit competition, the local unit placed third. Some 201 divisions competed nationally.

The Medford Navy reserve unit is composed of members from throughout Jackson county.

Ex-Japanese Prisoners Plan Convention Here

The Workers of Wake, Guam and Cavite will hold their 16th annual convention this week end at the Medford hotel.

The convention starts Friday at 7 p.m. in the hotel, and will continue through Sunday. More than 200 members from all parts of the country are expected to attend. The meeting will include a dinner-dance Saturday night.

The convention comes to Medford largely due to the urging of Mrs. Mary H. Ward, organization president who lives in Talent. Mrs. Ward has been instrumental in forming the group, and seeing that favorable government legislation for the group be passed.

The Workers of Wake, Guam and Cavite is composed of former prisoners of war captured by the Japanese on the islands of Wake, Guam and Cavite in the Pacific.

Each member was a civilian at the time of capture. They were working on building Naval air bases on the islands when the war broke out. An estimated 1,576 were captured and sent to Japanese prisoner camps. A total of 800 returned after the war. Most of the men were captured in December, 1941. They were released about Sept. 1, 1945.

The Workers were organized by wives during the war.

Two Are Killed In One-Car Crash In Jacksonville

Third Person Hurt Early This Morning

Two persons were killed and a third was injured early this morning in a one-car accident, according to Oregon state police.

Dead are William Marvin Nickell, 33, of 921 North Central ave., Medford, who is believed to have been driving the car, and Mildred Vera Jones, 41, of route 1, box 22B, Applegate a passenger.

Reported in good condition at Sacred Heart hospital is Gladys Fern Nickell, also of 921 North Central ave.

According to state police, the vehicle failed to make a left curve on Fifth st. in Jacksonville, sheared off a California Oregon Power company pole and traveled some distance before stopping.

Thrown From Car
The Nickells were thrown from the car in the impact, police said.

The accident occurred about 2:45 o'clock this morning. The entire Jacksonville area was without power until 4:38 a.m., according to Copco officials, and a few homes were without electricity until mid-morning.

The two deaths this morning brought to 19 the number of persons killed in traffic accidents in Jackson county this year. This time last year 20 traffic fatalities had been reported in the county.

Police Break Up Burglary Ring

Yreka — Siskiyou county sheriff's deputies said today that a four-state burglary ring that was broken up by police in Fresno and Modesto, Calif., Tuesday, had been operating in Siskiyou county in recent months.

Sheriff Al Cottar said the arrest of five persons in Fresno and Modesto solved a number of local burglaries, including two at nearby ranches and several others of new homes in the area.

The activities of the burglary ring were brought to a halt Tuesday night when the Modesto county sheriff's office arrested James Pintson and his wife, Ruby, and Fresno police arrested Kenneth Dale Allen and his wife, Edna, and Howard Allen. Two members of the ring were caught in the act of burglarizing a country club near Fresno.

Siskiyou county authorities said the five persons are suspected of being involved in more than 150 burglaries having a total take in excess of \$250,000.

The ring reportedly operated in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California. Authorities said goods were stolen in California and then sold at auctions in the other states.

Dick Newton, a criminal investigator in Siskiyou county, went to Idaho recently where he observed some of the stolen goods being sold at an auction.

All five persons are charged with grand theft.

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Ex-Convict Faces Kidnaping Charge

Portland — A state felony warrant charging kidnaping has been issued for ex-convict Claude Kenneth Castle, 52, who is believed to have left parole in the company of a missing 11-year-old girl.

Castle was also wanted for violation of parole. He was released from Oregon State Prison Sept. 1.

Missing was Renne Hanna. The complaint was signed by Mrs. Rae Marie Hanna, mother of the missing girl. The child was known to have been with Castle here Nov. 13, but has not been seen since that time.



ROCKAWAY BATTERED—Residents of Rockaway, on the Oregon coast, estimate damage from a freak wave which struck in the early hours Wednesday to be close to \$100,000. It was the second such wave within a month. The house shown in the picture was moved across the railroad tracks by the first wave. The owners had the home moved back to its original position only to have Wednesday's wave send it across the tracks. (UPI Telephoto)

Several Homes Beyond Repair; Tracks Cleared

Worst in Memory, Oldtimers Declare

Rockaway — (UPI) — Residents of this coastal community Wednesday night ruefully surveyed a section of their town knocked topsy-turvy by a freak wave, and estimated damage at close to \$100,000.

The town's oldtimers said the smashing wave, which struck Rockaway in the predawn darkness Wednesday, was the worst in memory.

Debris on Highway
It swept several homes from their foundations, deposited three houses on the railroad tracks 50 feet away, and piled logs and debris on highway 101.

Although several residences were smashed, no one was injured.

By Wednesday night, houses had been dragged from the railroad tracks so that train service would resume. The worst debris had been cleared from the highway.

Several of the homes, however, were listed as beyond repair. Mayor George Hodges said damages were still being assessed, but estimated the total at \$100,000.

Second in Month
The wave was the second in a month to pile over the bank at the edge of the sea and slam into the town.

Residents continued to cast a wary eye to the surf, which remained heavy. Police chief William Bulleset scheduled a midnight high-tide watch to warn residents if the sea seemed to be approaching the danger level again.

Reno Attorney Slain in Courtroom

Shots Follow Judge's Decision In Divorce Case

Reno — (UPI) — An Ohio contractor involved in a lawsuit drew a pistol from his shirt Wednesday and fired five shots in a courtroom, killing a prominent Reno attorney and wounding two other persons.

Police said the assailant, Bob Williams, 52, Cincinnati, went berserk after hearing that most of his property would go to his estranged wife and her mother in a divorce action.

Fired Shot at Judge
Eli Livierato, attorney for Mrs. Joyce Williams, died in the courtroom. Her brother, Guy Waldron Snyder, 50, and her mother's attorney, Edwin Mulcahy, were seriously wounded.

Witnesses said Williams fired one shot at Judge Jon Collins, but missed. They added that there was no way to tell if he also fired at his wife.

Williams' attorney, Sam Francovich, grabbed his client and witnesses helped him wrestle the .38 caliber pistol from the Ohio man's hand.

Given Examination
"What happened?" Williams asked as he was led away. He was taken to Washoe Medical Center for psychiatric examination.

Livierato, a former football star at the University of Nevada, had practiced law here for seven years.

Dog Control Will Become Effective In Areas Dec. 21

Law enforcement officers and County Dog Control Officer Chris Hagler have been directed to discontinue picking up dogs running at large in Medford, Rogue River and Precinct 68-A, until Dec. 21, District Attorney Thomas J. Reeder said yesterday.

"The county clerk has been directed previously to publish notification required by law pertaining only to the city of Medford, the city of Rogue River and Precinct 68-A," Reeder explained.

"The law further requires that the dog control law will not go into effect until 60 days after the final publication of the notification which will be Dec. 21," he added.

"Thereafter, the law should be strictly enforced and this office will prosecute the violators as required. A moratorium is in effect from Nov. 8 to Dec. 21," he added.

Violations To Be Prosecuted
"All violations in the county, including Medford Precinct 68-A and Rogue River prior to Nov. 8, 1960, will be prosecuted," Reeder said.

The district attorney said his office is now sending out notices as required by law to all people alleged to have violated the law prior to Nov. 8. The law requires at least a five-day notice to such violators. After this period the district attorney's office will begin processing and filing the required civil complaint against each violator.

"On Nov. 8, 1960, the voters repealed the dog control law in Jackson county (excluding certain cities and precincts) and as a consequence in this area it is now legal to permit dogs to run at large," Reeder said.

No Poison Bait Stations Will Be Placed in County

The Jackson county court yesterday afternoon approved the recommendation of the U.S. fish and wildlife service that 1080 poison bait stations not be set out in Jackson county this season to kill coyotes.

Following receipt of a letter from Melvin D. Smith, district agent for the U.S. fish and wildlife service, County Judge Earl Miller said "the file is closed this season" on the proposal to set out poison bait stations. The season runs from December to March.

"In view of the controversial meeting recently held in Jackson county, I would recommend that no stations be placed this year in Jackson county," the district agent wrote.

"I would further recommend that the county court take one of two stand: (1) take no decision pending further information, (2) refer the problem to the state inter-agency committee," Smith said.

Judge Miller said Riley Patterson, assistant district agent, and Smith both said they would request funds be included in the next county budget for a second government hunter. Kirby Tant, Brownsville, now is the only government hunter in Jackson county.

Smith's letter explained that the inter-agency committee is composed of the Oregon state game commission, department of agriculture, extension service, Association of Oregon Counties, bureau of sport fisheries and wildlife.

Smith also suggested that the county court review the Oregon Revised Statutes which permit the county courts, the state department of agriculture and the state game commission to appropriate funds which are submitted to the secretary of state's office for the predatory animal control program.

At a public information meeting recently called by the county court, the proposed program of establishing poison bait stations was discussed. Several residents objected to the stations, pointing out that the poison is toxic and there is no known antidote.

Storm Brings One Inch of Rainfall

A gusty and squally storm, which was less severe here than in other areas of the state, brought almost an inch of rain to the Medford area yesterday, bringing the precipitation totals to above normal for the first time this month.

The weather bureau station at the airport recorded .98 of an inch of rain yesterday. Another .10 fell this morning. Precipitation total through midnight last night was 2.22 inches for November, 23 of an inch above normal.

Rainfall is still below normal for the season, the 27.8 inches since Sept. 1 being 1.77 under the norm.

More rain and gusty winds are anticipated through tonight and into Friday with snow level in the mountains of the area lowering to 3,500.

Wind gusts up to 27 miles per hour were measured at the airport weather station.

Heavy snows have been forecast in the Siskiyou mountains today and tonight. Northern California weather reports said there may be heavy snows at highway level tonight. Gale force winds are expected along the northern California coast and in the north-south valley of the area.

Holiday Accident Toll Climbs to 82

The Thanksgiving holiday death toll had reached 82 by 9:30 a.m. (PST) today, according to a check by United Press International.

Traffic crashes had taken the lives of 68 persons, seven had died in fires and miscellaneous accidents were fatal to seven others.

6,150 Turkey Meals Served in Schools

Medford school district lunch rooms served 6,150 turkey dinners to students Wednesday noon, school officials reported.

The menu included turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, cranberry sauce, celery, salad, rolls, milk, and pumpkin pie or ice cream.

Officials reported that the number of students who were served yesterday is higher than the average daily participation of 4,075. Prices for the meal remained the same, it was pointed out, 25 cents for elementary students, and 30 cents for secondary pupils.

A total of 2,200 pounds of turkey was consumed at the meal.

State Commission Said Holding Checks

Salem — (UPI) — The Oregon Industrial Accident commission said today it is holding 24 checks amounting to \$325 because of incorrect addresses of the workers to whom they belong.

Commission Chairman Sidney B. Lewis said eight other checks totaling \$455 and issued more than two years ago have never been presented for payment.

Lewis warned that unless the checks are claimed or cashed soon, they may be invalidated. Those workers affected should contact the commission's Salem office.

Deadline Set on Families Overseas

Washington — (UPI) — No more wives and children of soldiers will be sent to Europe or Asia after Jan. 31 and the number of Navy men's dependents overseas will be cut 50 per cent by July 31, 1962.

These steps, part of President Eisenhower's program to stem the flow of American dollars and gold abroad, were announced Wednesday. The Air Force already has banned the shipment of families overseas after Feb. 1. The President ordered the number of dependents abroad cut from 484,000 to 200,000.

Arson Suspected in Portland House Fire

Salem — (UPI) — The state arson squad today was investigating a Wednesday night house fire that left a family of seven homeless.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Mabe and their five children was destroyed. The family was away at the time.

New Bear Creek Bridge Opens Friday; Traffic Signs, Patterns Are Explained

New traffic signs will appear on some of Medford streets Friday with the opening of the 10th st.-Bear creek bridge. City Engineer Vern Thorpe has reminded residents.

Some of the signs will be "stop" signs which will be necessary on 10th st. until the signal lights at Riverside ave. and Central aves. are installed.

Thorpe said the signals will be constructed by the state under an agreement between the city and state. The state has advertised for bids to be opened Dec. 9 for the project.

Thorpe said the department has not received information regarding the completion date the state has provided for the project in the specifications. He added the city applied for the agreement with the state last May.

Thorpe suggested that westbound 10th st. traffic turn left on Central ave. and right on 11th st. to cross the railroad tracks. This route was suggested to avoid a bottleneck when 10th st. stops for through truck travel on Front st.

Residents who use the Cottage st. bridge are alerted to the fact that 10th st. is the through street. Northbound traffic on Cottage st. will have to stop at the north end of the bridge. At Cottage and Spencer sts. the city has installed a "stop ahead" sign with flasher.

Traffic flow at the intersection of 10th and Willamette ave. will also be changed. Thorpe pointed out.

Signs will stop 10th st. traffic and southbound Willamette st. traffic, he said. Eastbound 10th st. traffic will be permitted to turn right onto Willamette without stopping. Also permitted will be left turns for northbound traffic on Willamette st. to 10th st. without stopping.

WEATHER
FORECAST: Occasional rain, heavy at times, with periods of gusty winds today, tonight and Friday. Snow on higher mountains today and lowering to near 3,500 feet tonight. High today near 45. Low tonight 40. High Friday 50.
Temp. 44
Highest Yesterday 54
Lowest This Morning 46
To 10 a.m. Today One Inch Precip.
Our Skies Tonight
Sunset today 4:42 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 7:14 a.m.
Moonset tonight 11:14 p.m.
First Quarter Nov. 25
PROMINENT STARS
Betelgeuse, low in east. 8:21 p.m.
Procyon, low in east. 9:36 p.m.
Sirius, rise 10:31 p.m.
PROMINENT CONSTELLATIONS
Cassiopeia, high in northwest at moonset.

