

Recount Declared Void; Wilburn Is Elected Sheriff

St. Helens — Two circuit court judges have ruled that a recount of votes in the Columbia County sheriff's race is void and declared Republican candidate Roy S. Wilburn elected.

Judges J. S. Bohannon and Glen Hieber agreed with Wilburn's charges that the ballots had been tampered with between the canvass after the Nov. 6 election and a recount Nov. 26.

Wilburn led Democratic incumbent Spencer Younce by 100 votes, 4,273 to 4,173 in the initial canvass. Younce then demanded a recount and

came out the winner by 41 votes, 4,214 to 4,173.

Wilburn immediately filed a civil suit asking that the recount be declared void. He contended that some ballots had been altered and other destroyed.

Columbia County Dist. Atty. David B. Williamson said immediately after the decision he will continue an investigation in an attempt to find out who was responsible for the fraud.

The two judges and one of Younce's attorneys, Marshall Hjelte, were highly critical of the election procedures of

County Clerk Robert Welwood.

"We observe there was a flagrant lack of security" in handling the ballots after the election, Judge Bohannon said. Testimony had indicated one door to the vault where the ballots were kept did not lock and the key was readily available to the other.

Younce said the recount was not his idea. He said two of his friends came forward on the last day on which the recount demand could be made and offered to put up the \$340 necessary for filing it. After some discussion he agreed, Younce said.

Dennis the Menace



"I DON'T SEE HOW HE CLIMBS A CHIMNEY. DID YA NOTICE HIM GRUNT WHEN HE PICKED ME UP?"



Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS
(Register and Tribune Syndicate 1962)

Blue Heron Is Among Most Statuesque of Water Birds

There is a solitary, sentry always alone, that stands by the edge of the swamp or poses statue-like in the shallow water usually just at the edge of the dividing line between near-shallow and deeper channels. Recognized as about the most statuesque of water birds, this sentry is the great blue heron. If he has seen you, and probably he has, he becomes a part of the landscape: not a muscle moves, not a feather flickers. He will watch you as well as the water at his feet, ready to leave or spear a fish, whichever happens first.

If you mark carefully his exact location by fixing in your mind a water weed, a stone or any other permanent object, and return tomorrow or a week later, you may be surprised to find he is still in the same place. You might almost believe he has stood there all the time you have been gone. Of course he has moved several times, may even have gone back to his nest in the top of some tall tree, but he has come back to fish.

That one particular place is his fishing spot, and unless he is too frequently disturbed or the fishing prospects deteriorate to about the vanishing point, he will always be there, for he knows that there is the one place where a meal of fish is reasonably assured.

If you are a careful observer, or interested in the reason for things, you might investigate that particular location. There is a very good reason why he selected that one particular spot. There may be a channel close where the bird can stand in shallow water and reach over into deeper water, or it may be a regular path where small fish frequently swim past to avoid what they know to be dangerous waters a little offshore.

But by an instinct wiser than any planning the bird has figured out where the chances are the best for the procurement of food. We might hate to admit it but that heron is pretty familiar with the habits and character of the fish or the toads or frogs on which it depends for survival.

Should you disturb him, he will lean forward, pull in his neck, spread his wings and, with deliberate, unhurried wing strokes, fly away over the water or the swamp. He will wait until you are gone or show no hostility toward him, then fly back to take up his position in his fishing place. Once settled in the old familiar place, he again assumes the shape of a statue, ever alert and always with the neck cocked and the long, sharp beak ready to spear the unwary fish that sooner or later will surely come along.

One of the strangest habits of the great blue heron is his

desire to be alone. Never will you see two of the birds together. He is a solitary figure, neither a recluse or a bachelor, but he works on the formula that "he fishes best who fishes alone." Aloneness to the blue heron is a virtue; he stands alone, as does his mate, a solitary figure against a background of water or marshgrass.

But all the time he stands there, or walks carefully in the shallows after a running fish, he knows, away back in the far recesses of his mind, exactly where his mate is standing, also alone, and intent on her own fishing. If he is disturbed, and leans forward to take off, he utters his harsh cry of alarm. She may be as much as a quarter or even a half mile away, but she hears the call; she too abandons her fishing spot and takes to the air.

Listen closely when he flies

Missile Research Offered to Britain

Paris — The United States has offered to turn over to Great Britain free of charge more than \$400 million worth of research material on the Skybolt missile if Britain decides to "go it alone" in producing it, informed American sources said Saturday.

The United States also has offered Great Britain a number of possible alternative nuclear deterrent weapons if Washington decides to abandon the Skybolt project, the sources said. Among them are the proven 500-mile range Hound-Dog missile, which already has been ordered in numbers for U. S. Air Force B52 strategic bombers, and Polaris submarine missiles.

The American offer became known after Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara conferred again over lunch Saturday with British Defense Minister Peter Thorneycroft.

The whole discussion dealt with the Skybolt dispute which has created a furore in Britain.

A final decision on the Skybolt program is reported to have been postponed until the meeting between British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and President Kennedy in the Bahamas Dec. 19-20.

Sams Valley Program Slated

Sams Valley — The annual Christmas program at Sams Valley Elementary school will be held Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium. All grades one through six will participate. Parents and patrons of the school are invited to attend.

"A Visit From St. Nicholas" will be the title of a comedy pantomime that will be presented by third grade youngsters.

"The Talking Christmas Tree," a novelty Christmas play, will be given by fourth, fifth and sixth graders.

First and second grade students will sing songs. The chorus will sing appropriate Christmas numbers in connection with the play. The new sets of bells will be used and the fourth grade tonette band will perform.

Christmas treats will be presented to the youngsters when Santa makes his annual visitation. This portion of the program is sponsored by the Sams Valley Parent-Teachers association. Funds for treats were derived from a PTA chili supper given Dec. 1 that was a success.

On Thursday Mrs. Jean Smith, school cook, will prepare and serve a Christmas dinner with all of the trimmings in the school cafeteria. There will be the usual lunch charge.

Room parties with room-mothers in charge of arrangements are planned for Wednesday.

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Claim Made Against Air Force Agents In Idaho Murder

Mountain Home, Idaho — At-C Gerald M. Anderson's attorney Saturday claimed special Air Force agents tried to corroborate another man's denial of two Mountain Home murders while letting a confession it obtained from Anderson stand without corroboration.

Atty. Robert McLaughlin, defending the 25-year-old San Diego, Calif., airman at a military hearing here, said the office of special investigation (OSI) pressed Theodore Thomas Dickie, 22, Boise, until he denied killing Mrs. Nancy Joy Johnson, 22, and her son, Daniel, 2 1/2, last April 9.

Agent John W. Peters testified Dickie told him Dec. 4 he had murdered the woman. But on Dec. 7, Peters said, Dickie told him he went to Mrs. Johnson's home the night of the murders and found her dead and Anderson in the livingroom crying.

Deny Murders
McLaughlin claimed then that once the agents got Dickie to deny the murders their investigation of Dickie halted.

Anderson was released from a civil charge of murdering Mrs. Johnson only last month, but the Air Force said it was unsatisfied and charged Anderson with premeditated murder of both the mother and child. Subsequently, the Idaho civil authorities charged

ed Dickie with the two murders.

Dickie also is charged with the rape-slaying of a 10-year-old Boise girl on Nov. 9.

A civil rights battle in the Anderson case is pending in a federal district court at Boise because Anderson charged the OSI coerced him into confessing by using psychological methods.

Prospects Brighten For Citrus Growers

Lakeland, Fla. — Weary citrus workers and vegetable growers who spent Friday night battling frost ended their vigil Saturday morning with assurances from the Weather Bureau that they won't have to repeat the performance.

Preliminary reports indicated that the freeze of three days last week has affected about 80 per cent of Florida's 163-million box citrus crop, valued at about \$500 million.

The federal-state frost warning service at Lakeland said farmers had a relatively easy time with the cold Friday night, especially in the north and central portions of the citrus belt.

Forecaster James Georg said the sub-freezing temperatures lasted only a short time in most districts before the mercury began rising.

Hardest hit were the farming areas along the lower east coast and Everglades districts, where temperatures ranged from 25 to 33 degrees last night. Georg said there was heavy frost in the area.

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