

Merl Crawford Case Expected To Go To Jury; Testimony Ends

The trial of Merl M. Crawford, Klamath Indian accused of raping Mrs. Elizabeth Petersen on the night of February 20 at her home at 2027 Eberlein, was expected to go to the jury this afternoon.

The defense and prosecution both closed their cases this morning and Circuit Court Judge David R. Vandenberg ordered a recess until 2 p. m. when he will instruct the jury.

A. L. Brandt, circuit court reporter, was called this morning by the state in rebuttal and testified briefly as to statements Crawford allegedly made at the police station on the night of his arrest.

Assistant District Attorney J. H. Napier made the state's opening argument and stated that rape is one of the most dreadful crimes in history. He called the alleged crime one of a revolting, terrible, and hideous nature.

Closing Argument

Chief Defense Attorney George Roberts of Medford then presented the closing argument for the defense. He assailed the state's failure to produce the whiskey and brandy bottles and the glasses that were testified to have been on the drainboard in the Petersen home. He repeatedly emphasized that Crawford was being tried for rape and not assault and battery.

Roberts stated that Crawford is guilty of the crime of assault and battery but that the evidence produced by the state does not disclose that he is guilty of the charge of rape.

He questioned the motives of the district attorney's office in not producing Alfred Baaken as a witness. Reed had testified that Baaken was present upon two occasions the night the alleged crime was committed and Roberts declared that through the failure of the state to produce Baaken as a witness, the jury was forced to surmise what Baaken's story might be.

He concluded by saying that "the time element leaves too much to the imagination," and in a lowered voice dramatically asked the jury to return a verdict of not guilty.

Closes Case

District Attorney Clarence A. Humble gave the closing argument for the state and said that the state had produced every fact necessary to prove the charge of rape and asked the jury to find the defendant, Merl M. Crawford, guilty of the charge.

Mrs. Elizabeth Petersen, the complaining witness in the case, took the stand yesterday afternoon.

Upon interrogation by Assistant District Attorney J. H. Napier, Mrs. Petersen stated that the first time she saw Crawford was in the Reed residence on February 20. She identified Crawford as the man who allegedly attacked her later in the evening at her home.

She said that she stayed at the Reeds about 10 minutes and then returned to her home. She went into her bathroom and upon going to the kitchen found Crawford standing there. She stated that she was frightened and asked Crawford where he lived. Mrs. Petersen testified that she then started to go out her back door with the idea of calling a taxicab for Crawford, but that he seized her by the hair. She screamed and Crawford grabbed her throat and pushed her into the front room, she declared.

Assaults Charged

She testified that she either fell or was thrown to the floor.

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An urgent call from the naval air station for guards and fire department employees has been placed with Jack Almeter of the U. S. employment service.

There is a demand for 80 men between the ages of 21 and 45 for work in the fire department. Veterans with or without experience and civilians with experience in these positions. Men without experience will be hired and trained on the job.

Twenty men above the age of 21 are needed for guard duty throughout the station. All of these positions pay \$180 a month.

Applicants should apply at the U. S. employment service, 3rd and Main.

Oregon Able To Aid Meat Situation

PORTLAND, June 27 (AP)—Oregon, with more beef cattle on farms and ranges than at any time for 15 years, could easily fill yawning meat counters except for government regulations, the state director of agriculture said here.

E. L. Peterson told directors of the Oregon Food Merchants association yesterday that Oregon has 746,000 beef cattle, 436,000 dairy cows and young stock, 184,000 hogs, and 1,082,000 sheep and lambs.

He declared that ill-advised regulations prevent the stock from reaching consumers, and recommended these changes:

Cancellation of the new custom slaughtering regulation; adjustment of slaughter quotas; qualifying more slaughter plants for interstate shipment; authorizing the regional and district OPA for emergency action.

Archaeologists To Study Peninsula

LONDON, June 27 (AP)—A Russian archaeological expedition from Leningrad is now en route to the Chukotka peninsula in Siberia just opposite Alaska to do excavation work expected to "clarify many questions in connection with the population of North America," the Moscow radio said today.

There long has been a theory that pre-historic North Americans migrated from the Asiatic mainland across a landbridge since vanished into the Bering sea.

Bible School Picnic Slated For Thursday

The picnic of the vacation Bible school of the Methodist and Christian churches will be held Thursday, June 28 from 11:30 to 3:30. Each child is to bring his own lunch. Drinks and dessert will be furnished.

On Friday, June 29, the closing program will be held at the First Christian church, 9th and Pine, at 8 p. m. All parents and friends are invited.

Klamath Man Serves In Guard Of Honor

FORT LEWIS, Wash.—Cpl. Edward McConnell of 2053 Radcliffe, Klamath Falls, was chosen to serve as a member of a military guard of honor furnished President Harry S. Truman on his recent visit to Olympia, Wash., where he presented the Congressional Medal of Honor to Sgt. John D. Hisek.

Cpl. McConnell is a member of Company A of the 393rd military police battalion stationed at Fort Lewis.

Crawford Testifies

Crawford, the defendant, took the stand in his own defense. Crawford said that he and a friend had drunk a full quart of whiskey before he called upon the Reeds on February 20. He testified that Mrs. Petersen had several drinks at the Reed home and that she said that if he would come to her home her husband had some cigars or cigarettes.

She led the way to her back door with him following, he stated, and showed Crawford her chicken coop. He said that she stumbled while entering the

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STETTINIUS GIVEN CAPITOL'S WELCOME

WASHINGTON, June 27 (AP)—Secretary of State Stettinius and other members of the United States delegation to the San Francisco conference were enthusiastically welcomed back to Washington today by the senate foreign relations committee.

The committee, which Senator Connally (D-Tex.), one of the returning delegates heads, motored from the capitol to the air-

Wednesday, June 27, 1945 **HERALD AND NEWS—THREE**

port nearly an hour before the world charter shapers flew in from the west coast.

Arriving in the same plane that brought Stettinius were Connally and Mrs. Connally, Senator Vandenberg (R-Mich.), British Ambassador Lord Halifax, Mexican Foreign Minister Ezequiel Padilla, Brazilian For-

eign Minister Pedro Leao Valloso, and Dean Virginia Gilder-sleeve of Barnard college, only woman on the American delegation at UNCIO.

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