

Westbrook Pegler Loses Libel Suit To Q. Reynolds

By ROBERT M. FARRINGTON
 NEW YORK (AP)—Author Quentin Reynolds today won a \$175,000 cash award and a token moral victory in a federal libel action against newspaper columnist Westbrook Pegler.

An award of \$175,000 levied against Pegler, the Hearst Corp. and Hearst Consolidated Publications, Inc., was believed to be one of the largest, if not the largest libel award ever made in a U.S. court.

But the jury also awarded Reynolds only one single dollar to compensate him for loss of earnings, damage to his reputation and mental anguish suffered over the past four years from a defamatory Pegler column on which the \$500,000 suit was based.

"I'm happy about the award, but I can't figure out how they arrived at that dollar," Reynolds said after the weary jury announced its verdict shortly before 1 a.m. Pegler was not in court and the Pegler-Hearst lawyer declined to comment.

Reynolds in the course of the seven-week case had claimed he lost a fortune in the magazine and entertainment fields because of the Pegler column.

Federal Judge Edward Weinfeld, in charging the jury, declared the column, published in 1949, was defamatory and libelous in itself as a matter of law.

He urged them to "use your common sense" in determining what compensation was due Reynolds for his principal claims of injury.

In effect, the jury, which had been deliberating since noon yesterday, decided he was not injured gravely at all.

The \$175,000 was awarded as punitive damages, which the judge had explained took in "actual malice . . . ill-will, spite, hatred, intent to injure" and was also designed to prevent repetition of the offense and serve as a warning to others.

For Pegler it was the end of a carefully checked claim that he never been successfully sued for libel. Previous libel cases have been settled out of court with Pegler claiming he has never been assessed a penny in settlements.

The jury divided its \$175,000 levy among the three defendants: \$100,000 against Pegler; \$50,000 the Hearst Corp., which distributes the Pegler columns to 186 newspapers; and \$25,000 against Hearst Consolidated Publications, which publishes the local Pegler outlet, the New York Journal-American.

Actually, because of a protective clause in Pegler's contract, the Hearst interests and not Pegler will have to pay the \$100,000 levied against him.

Neither will he have to pay any part of the \$1 which was allocated to all three dependants.

There was an immediate motion, however, by Pegler's lawyer to set aside the verdict on the grounds of excessive damages being granted. Judge Weinfeld, who will hear the motion Friday, meanwhile granted a 20-day stay in the award.

The jury also announced it was deadlocked in a counterclaim filed by Pegler which alleged Reynolds had libeled him in a book review published in the New York Herald Tribune nine days before Pegler wrote his "Nov. 29, 1949 column.

In Pegler's column, Reynolds said he was depicted as a Communist, a nudist and a man so unfeeling he would propose to a widow on the way to bury her husband. He said Pegler attacked his World War II career as a foreign correspondent for Collier's as "an absentee war correspondent."

That column, Reynolds testified, ended his 17-year association with Collier's and cost him \$25,000 a year, made him "dead" in radio and television work (the estimated loss at \$52,000 a year) and was responsible for his being cold-shouldered in Hollywood, where he once earned \$100,000 a year.

Cordon Backs Indian Pay

WASHINGTON — Senator Guy Cordon has introduced legislation in the Senate which would permit disbursement of Klamath capital reserve funds to members of the Klamath Indian tribe, in payment of the annual summer "installment" on per capita payments to the Indians.

Insufficient income has been received this year from Klamath timber sales to make possible the usual per capita payment. The Cordon bill provides a temporary means of eliminating that difficulty.

The Cordon bill is identical to a measure introduced in the House by Rep. Sam Coon.

Church To Hear Boy Singer

A special program is announced by the First Covenant Church, 823 Walnut, for Tuesday evening, July 6, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Eleven-year-old Wayne Barton, talented singer and pianist, will be featured under the sponsorship of Sky Pilots of America, Inc. This international organization has as its project teaching boys the Christian faith "through the building of model airplanes and instruction from the leaders."

During the early months of this year, Wayne toured 13 states in the East appearing on radio and television shows. He was also soloist in the film, "Combat," which was produced by Sky Pilots of America, Inc. and shown in Klamath Falls at an earlier date.

The public is invited to attend without charge.

Unofficial Air Plan Revealed

TOKYO (AP)—The English-language edition of the newspaper Mainichi said today Japan has an unannounced five-year plan for building her new air force to 1,300 planes, including 525 Sabre jets.

A defense force spokesman said, "We have never heard of the plan."

MR. Pest Reporter

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TROPHIES GALORE ARE READY AND WAITING for winners in every event during Merchant's Fun Week and for entries in the big Fourth of July parade, scheduled for Monday, July 5. The Klamath Kurbstone Kowpokes, meeting for breakfast, Monday, June 28 at the Pelican Cafe look over the collection. Seated (l to r) Johnny Burke, Keith Moon, chairman, Jesse House, Ron Van Orman and Jim Lear. Back row, same order, Ed Maurmann, Bill DePew, Rex Dye.

BPA Announces Rate Proposals

PORTLAND (AP)— Bonneville Power Administration Tuesday revealed its rate proposals for the five year period beginning Dec. 20, 1954.

In the first of a series of scheduled meetings with its customers, BPA told the Northwest Public Power Assn. rate committee that no increase was planned for the two-year period ending Dec. 20, 1954, but that some increase might be necessary for the year ending in 1957 or later.

Bonneville will discuss the rate proposal with private utility customers Wednesday and has scheduled these area meetings: Seattle, July 19; Wenatchee, July 20; Spokane, July 21; Kalispell, July 22; Portland, July 26; Walla Walla, July 27; and Eugene, July 29.

The Bonneville act requires review of the rate structure every five years. The new rates cannot be put into effect before being reviewed and approved by the Federal Power Commission.

Action Of Velde Committee Lauded

WASHINGTON (AP)— Rep. Pelly (R-Wash.) Monday said his mail reflects an "extremely favorable public reaction" to the recent hearing of the House Un-American Activities Committee in Seattle.

He told the House "the fairness, patience, and dignity exhibited by the chairman and members of the subcommittee were most favorably recognized."

"Of course," he continued "it was a great shock to those who wrote me to discover the extent of Communist Party membership, and the devious manner in which this menace from within has operated."

Boys Escape From MacLaren School

SALEM (AP)— Three inmates of MacLaren School for Boys at Woodburn escaped from a work detail near Canby Monday night, according to state police here.

The three were identified as Dale Reeves, 17, Klamath Falls; John Knutson, 17, Eugene; and Arthur Busby, 17, Auburn, Calif.

NEW JET
 TOKYO (AP)— The first jet aircraft engine made in Japan of Japanese design and materials will be completed in September by the Japan Jet Engine Co., Kyodo News Agency reported today.

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4-H News

MIDLAND GREEN THUMBS
 Our fifth meeting was held at Mrs. Hoppers home, on Friday, June 18. Mrs. Rayson gave us some information on the flower exhibit this fall.

Jack Mitcham arranged for Clarence Bussman, of Bussman's Seed Store to be our guest speaker for the day.

Merrill Plans Fireworks Show

MERRILL — The public is invited to attend the free fireworks display in Merrill Sunday night, July 4.

This will be the fifth annual fireworks show put on by the Merrill Volunteer Fire Department, according to Fire Chief Tom Chaburn Jr.

A sound truck will furnish music during the spectacle which will last from 1 1/2 to 2 hours. The display will be held on the football field back of the Merrill High School and will get under way at dark.

Fire Chief Turns In False Alarm

MIDDLEBURY, Vt. (AP)—None of the local fire fighters appeared angry today that he had to answer a false alarm yesterday. It was rung in by Fire Chief Kenneth Caul.

The fire chief explained it this way: He woke up and noticed a red glare behind the barn. He called the department and reported that the barn was ablaze.

It turned out that the glare was the reflection from flames set around a road construction job.

DEATH

FLEMINGTON, N. J. (AP)—A bull charged Stanley Laiko, a 60-year-old farmhand, yesterday and crushed him to death against a building.

RELEASED

BONN, Germany (AP)— The British released another German war criminal Tuesday, reducing to 63 the number held in their prison at Werl. The freed man is Martin Kilmkeit, 47.

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Cordon Meets 4-H Visitors

WASHINGTON — Senator Guy Cordon was responsible for one of the nicest of the many nice things which happened to Oregon's four-member delegation to the annual national encampment of 4-H Clubs here last week.

To each of the four, two boys and two girls, Senator Cordon presented an autographed copy of the printed Agriculture Department yearbook, "Crops, in Peace and in War."

The Oregon delegates to the national confab included Miss Betty Stellmacher of Albany, Miss Jean Eymann of Canby, Frank Maynard of McMinnville and John Gardner of John Day.

Day following end of the encampment, the four youngsters journeyed to Capitol Hill to see Senator

4-H Boys Win Purebred Pigs

At a drawing held recently in Merrill, 4-Hers Ronnie Adamak, Malin, and Norbert Anthes, Tulelake, were the winners of two young registered purebred Berkshire gilts donated by Merrill Lodge No. 306, Loyal Order of Moose.

In accepting the pigs the boys agreed to show them at the 4-H Fair this fall and to breed them at the proper time to a purebred Berkshire boar. When the pigs farrow the first time, each boy must return two gilts from the litter to the Moose Lodge who will in turn give the four pigs to other 4-H pig club members the following year.

The program was started by the lodge in 1953 in an effort to create interest among 4-H Club pig projects.

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