

News Analyst Reviews K.F. Circuit Court Records

(Eds. Note: The following is the transcript of Floyd Wynne's Wednesday night commentary on the current law enforcement situation in Klamath County. Wynne, news analyst for KFLW, has compiled these figures with a view to presenting the public with a full background on the situation.)

BY FLOYD WYNNE
Let us give the Circuit Court record of criminal cases a close examination. Let us, in all fairness to the present District Attorney compare his record for the 22 months he has been District Attorney with the preceding 22 months record of his predecessor D. E. Van Vactor, now District Judge.

During his 22 months in office dating from September 1, 1952 to July 1 of this year, Alderson had 148 cases registered in the Circuit Court criminal records. Of these 148, 84 pleaded guilty, indictments against 36 were dismissed, 9 indictments were re-submitted to the Grand Jury and 14 cases were taken to conclusion by jury trial. Of the 14 cases tried . . . eight decisions of "not guilty" were returned and six decisions of "guilty."

Now let us contrast these two records even more closely: The number of cases handled were approximately the same, 148 for Alderson 145 for Van Vactor. Van Vactor, however, had almost 50 per cent more that pleaded guilty than did Alderson, 120 against 84.

Van Vactor had less than half as many indictments dismissed, only 17 as against 36 for Alderson. He had only about one-third as many cases that went to decision by jury, five as against 14 for Alderson. Van Vactor had only a third as many re-submitted to the Grand Jury as Alderson, three against nine for Alderson.

Clearly the record indicates that under District Attorney Frank Alderson prosecution has not been as efficient.

Now, what has been the difference in Circuit Court costs? Alderson took over approximately in late August of 1952. Therefore the biggest share of circuit court expenses for the fiscal year July 1, 1952, to July 1, 1953, were incurred under his administration. During that fiscal year July 1, 1952, to July 1, 1953, the budget for Circuit Court expenses and this includes only the money paid out for juries, witnesses and Grand Jury expenses and incidental court costs, the budget was for \$7,000 for that year and expenses amounted to just \$5,638.48, or some \$1350 under the proposed budget. However for the following fiscal year the proposed budget was also \$7,000, but the expenses have amounted to \$8,690.44 . . . or about \$1690 over the budget. In other words . . . circuit court costs in the year just concluded have increased over the previous year by some \$3,031.96. Clearly the court costs have shown a marked increase in just one year's time, indicating much more court activity since the initial base of court costs has not increased in that one year's time.

A check of the records also reveals that this is the first year in the 14 years that David Vandenberg has been Circuit Judge that the proposed budget has been exceeded.

Also next week we intend to give closer scrutiny to the 38 indictments which have been dismissed under the administration of District Attorney Frank Alderson.

In the meantime the Klamath County Bar Association has been taking steps also in an effort to determine just how serious is the breakdown of law enforcements in Klamath County and just what can be done or recommended about it. We shall hear more from them and from the State Bar Association, as well as Chief Justice Latourrette in the near future on this problem.

However, in the final analysis, the problem is of vital concern to every resident of Klamath County and that's the reason I have gone ahead compiling and presenting the facts in the case. Past history of our country has proven that if the facts are completely and truthfully given to the American people, they, themselves, will come up with the right solution.

These figures do not include District Court costs or District Court records which we shall present next week.

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FHA Scandal Investigated

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senators investigating housing scandals today summoned William Levitt, one of the builders of Levittown, Long Island, for questioning on the financing of rental homes built with government-insured loans.

Levitt and Alfred Gross, one of the sponsors of the huge Glen Oaks apartment project in Jamaica, were two of several witnesses scheduled before the Senate Banking Committee, which is investigating alleged irregularities in government-backed housing construction.

One of the principal targets of inquiry to date has been alleged windfall profits reaped by apartment builders who got government insured mortgages larger than construction costs, then pocketed the difference.

Levitt is a member of the firm of Levitt and Sons, builder of Levitt town. The community is considered by some a model operation for new building techniques.

Some 6,000 homes in the planned community, it was reported, were built for rental and the balance for outright sale under sections of the National Housing Act.

Take it from me girls... stay Smart and Healthy

By BESSY, The Basin Bossy Vacationland, U.S.A., has it own code of styles for the vagabond gals. Simple, colorful shorts are among the most popular travel wear visible in national parks and other public playgrounds out of doors. But the slickest, neatest and the "does-most-for" of all are the new pedal-pushers—the modified Matador type.

And, as usual, there is the sprinkling of slack-clad gals, and quite frequently a far more trim figure in blue jeans.

The best-dressed femme along a vacationland fishing stream is the one dressed most practically for the occasion. And it's surprising it is how sweet and lovely they look in gear suited to "roughing" it. And, after all, who is to see you on a really good fishing hole—unless it is really good—but the fish himself, who doesn't much care whether the fisher-girl is in mink or mackinaw.

Of course there are lots of clothes available for the outdoors girls, designed with a femininity built in. And, should the budget be able to stand it, they are mighty nice to sport before the eyes of the admiring water-clad clan along the creek.

Vacation often means skimming on proper foods—and naturally vacation is the time to do just that. Relax, and for a wild two weeks eat what you wouldn't or couldn't the previous 50 weeks of the year. But, just to stay on the safe side, a glass of milk with each meal will keep the diet somewhere closer to balance, you can take it from me, Bessy.

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