



"I hope they NEVER send a man to the moon! Geography is tough enough already!"

## Motherwell Murder Trial To Open In Downieville

DOWNIEVILLE, Calif. (AP)—Larry Lord Motherwell, 43, goes on trial in this Sierra Nevada town today, charged with murdering Pearl Putney, 72, a widow from Washington, D.C.

Her bones were found by a vacationer last summer in the nearby mountains.

Judge Warren Steel of Yuba County said he would open the trial by questioning the first of 130 prospective jurors to get the feel of the panel before ruling on a defense motion for a change of venue out of Sierra County.

John T. Reges of Washington, Motherwell's attorney, asked the change after Judge Winslow Christian of Sierra County Superior Court was disqualified. The defense, in an affidavit to the California Judicial Council, asserted Judge Christian was prejudiced. That automatically disqualified him.

Reges noted there are only 3,000 people in Sierra County and fewer than 350 residents would be prejudiced over Christian's disqualification.

Residents deny they have formed any prejudicial opinions. After all the expense and hullabaloo, they want to see it.

On June 30, 1958, Motherwell and Mrs. Putney left Washington on a cross-country motor trip. Mrs. Putney, widow of a political science professor, was believed to have been carrying about \$50,000 in cash and negotiable securities.

The defense claims Motherwell was acting as Mrs. Putney's chauffeur. They were last seen together Aug. 15, 1958, when they checked out of a motel in Marysville, Calif. They had been registered as Dr. and Mrs. Motherwell. Mrs. Putney was never again seen alive.

In January 1959, Motherwell was picked up for questioning in Las Vegas, Nev. He had a \$1,700 bankroll. Motherwell said he hadn't seen Mrs. Putney since they parted in Las Vegas the previous August.

Police in Frederick, Md., wanted Motherwell for questioning in connection with the death of his infant daughter, a mongoloid. He was extradicted to Maryland but a grand jury refused to indict him.

The hopelessly retarded child was the daughter of Motherwell's second wife, Sarah, who drowned in a bathtub at Washington five months after the child's death.

Motherwell married for the third time in 1956. His wife, Josephine, 31, lives in Washington with their 28-month-old daughter, Denise.

Although baffled by Mrs. Putney's disappearance, California authorities had no claim on Motherwell until a year and a day after she had disappeared.

On Aug. 16, 1959, a woman

hunting mushrooms in the mountains between Downieville and Sierraville came upon the bones of a human being. Dental work established the body as that of Mrs. Putney.

After a nationwide search, FBI agents found Motherwell in Atlanta on Aug. 21. He was extradited and brought here to Sierra County's six-cell jail.

Dr. Matthew Thornton, a physician in New Hampshire, was a signer of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

## Morse To Run In Maryland

WASHINGTON (AP)—Oregon's senior senator, Wayne Morse, is branching out into something more than a "favorite son" role in his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. He is going to enter the Maryland primary.

Telling of this Sunday on the ABC-TV "College News Conference," Morse said: "I think there should be a contest in Maryland. I don't think Senator Kennedy should have it on a platter." Until now, Kennedy has been the only announced candidate for Maryland's May 17 primary.

Last July Morse filed a statement with Oregon's secretary of state saying he was not and did not intend to become a candidate for the presidential nomination. But his supporters circulated petitions that would put him on the ballot anyway and he then said if he were put on the ballot he would make a fight for votes.

Morse is now committed to entering the Oregon, Maryland and District of Columbia primaries. He has said he may also enter

the primary in Wisconsin, which both Kennedy and Sen. Hubert Humphrey have called a key election in building their hopes for nomination. Morse has been strongly critical of both Kennedy and Humphrey, charging them with failing labor in their votes last fall on a labor control bill.

Kennedy has been attacked more than Humphrey, because he was chairman of a conference committee which reported the revised Landrum Griffin Bill to the Senate for a vote.

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