Two First Degree Murder Trials Slated In Klamath Circuit Courts

Justice as applied by Klamath County's circuit courts began running its course Tuesday for two people indicted by the grand jury for first degree murder.

Tuesday morning in Circuit Court No. 2, Judge Donald A. W. Piper set 10 a.m., July 8 as the time for the trial of Zelma Joan Ochiho, 42, indicted for the gun slaying of Mrs. Florine Baker Huitt, 26, at the home of a mutual friend last March 19.

Mrs. Ochiho was indicted on the murder charge Monday, a few days in excess of three months since she was acquitted by a Klamath County Circuit Court jury of the first degree murder of her boy friend, Bruce Miller, 38, an ex-pugilist. A jury of eight women and four men voted 10-2 for acquital by reason of self defense.

Mrs. Huitt, the victim in the most recent slaying, had been in the same room with Mrs. Ochiho when the latter discharged the bullet from the .308 caliber rifle which killed Miller. Mrs. Huitt testified at the murder trial that she had been looking out of a window at the time of the shooting and did not observe the incident which took Miller's life. Mrs. Ochiho is a Klamath Indian, as was Mrs. Huitt.

Less than two months following the murder trial, Mrs. Ochiho slew Mrs. Huitt with the same weapon she used to kill Miller. At the time of the shooting, police believed that jealousy over Otis Washington, a Negro who testified during the trial involving Miller's death, was the motive which incited Mrs. Ochiho to slay her cousin, Mrs. Huitt.

Police records establish that the victim was sitting next to Washington in the living room at 616 Commercial Street when Mrs. Ochiho, carrying the alleged murder weapon, opened the front door of the dwelling and stepped inside the house.

Washington told police he observed Mrs. Ochiho point the rifle at the victim and discharge it. The bullet struck Mrs. Huitt in the thigh and she died of the wound several hours later at the Klamath Valley Hospital.

Mrs. Ochiho later consulted her attorney and then surrendered to police.

In the other arraignment involving first degree murder, Archie Emil Foster, 26, accused of the April 22 gun slaying of Mrs. Richard Biss, 37-year-old Beatty woman, appeared before Judge David R. Vandenberg in Circuit Court No. 1 Tuesday afternoon and was instructed to return to the bench 10 a.m., Friday, May 10, to enter a plea.

Foster was apprehended by a state police officer and a sheriff's deputy Wednesday, April 24, in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Biss, who was found dead of a bullet wound through her head April 22. Her body was in an upright position in the rear seat of the family automobile, parked near the Biss Beatty home, when it was discovered by neighbors.

Cotton Plan Given Okay

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Administration has approved a domestic subsidy program for the cotton industry which would eliminate the two-price cotton system in mid-1964.

The Agriculture Department joined the cotton industry in approving a two-stage compromise program to help domestic mills against foreign manufactures.

At the same time, Assistant Agriculture Secretary Charles S. Murphy injected some new price support proposals which could hamper passage of any cotton legislation.

Chairman Harold Cooley, D-N.C., of the House Agriculture Committee, said he would consider a number of recommendations forwarded by Murphy before introducing any bill.

Cooley, who released Murphy's comments on his proposed bill, indicated that there was no total agreement within the industry on the department's proposals.

"I am hopeful that we soon may develop very substantial agreement among the various elements in the cotton industry," he said, "so that we may deal effectively with the problem by passing the essential legislation."

Alligator Farm Sold For Lien

MESA, Ariz. (UPI) — In the market for 217 alligators?

You can buy them at a public auction Monday at 1 p. m.

Robert A. Petrie, Mesa attorney, said the alligators at the Arizona alligator farm will be sold to satisfy a landlord's lien for rental due on the property east of here.

The alligators were in the news two weeks ago when it was discovered teen-agers had taken some of the smaller ones and released them around the Salt River Valley. Law enforcement officers believe most of the gators have been rounded up and returned to to the alligator farm.

SKIING PAPOOSE STYLE — When Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Light plan a day of skiing on the Cedarpass ski hill, daughter Karen proves no problem. Strapped to her father's back papoose-style, the 16-month-old passenger gets a free ride — which she thoroughly enjoys — and can even sleep blissfully as she is whizzed down the mountain. With cheeks a rosy pink from the sun and air, her only real complaint comes when she is taken into the warming hut. Light is a member of the U.S. Forest Service stationed at Cedarville.

Laos Peace Discussion Set

VIENTIANE, Laos (UPI) — Neutralist Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma returned to Vientiane late Tuesday from a meeting with Pathet Lao leader Prince Souphanouvong and said a "mixed commission" will be set up to work out an effective cease-fire.

The premier said that the "mixed commission" will discuss a more stable cease-fire arrangement than at present between the pro-Communist Pathet Lao and Neutralist forces led by Gen. Kong Le.

Pistol-Packing Bogeymen Preserve Haitian Presidency For Duvalier

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

President Francois Duvalier of Haiti is a physician-turned-dictator who keeps himself in office with the aid of a pistol-packing force called "tonton macoute."

Translated from the Creole, tonton macoute means "bogeymen" and it is a fair description of the bully boys who swagger in blue jeans and sports shirts and who reportedly are adept at all forms of persuasion from "voluntary" contributions for Duvalier's personal projects to torture for his enemies.

Altogether, they total about 10,000 as compared to Haiti's regular army of 5,000, a force which Duvalier systematically has stripped of its best officers since he took office on Oct. 22, 1957.

Duvalier currently is observing a "month of gratefulness" for a bit of political sleight of hand which he executed two years ago and by which he declared himself re-elected for a new six-year term two years before his old term was to have expired.

Two Weeks to Go

The old term would have expired this May 15.

Mounting violence in Port Au Prince, Haiti's capital, has accompanied the approach of that date.

An outfit calling itself the United Revolutionary Forces has announced that on May 15 it will carry out a "dry cleaning" operation against the "tyrant-voodooist" Duvalier.

Haiti has charged the Dominican Republic of plotting against Duvalier which failed but led to the deaths of a chauffeur and two bodyguards watching over Duvalier's children.

The U.S. embassy officially has warned some 1,500 Americans to store up food and water and stay off downtown streets.

And Haiti and the Dominican Republic came close to armed blows.

The Haitian government has pressed a hate campaign against both the Dominican Republic and the United States and has threatened that any uprising against Duvalier would produce a "Himalaya of corpses."

U.S. aid to Haiti since 1946 has amounted to around $100 million and the most to show for it is a small dam, some road repair and progress in eliminating the tropical yaws.

While cutting off aid, the United States until this week continued a 55-man Marine training mission in Port Au Prince, partly on the theory that some of the best and most responsible men in Haiti were in its armed forces.

The U. S. remains in a dilemma in Haiti. But there also is the belief that eventually Duvalier must fall. The direction of that fall would determine the U. S. position—intervention if Communist, support if there seems a chance for a new democratic rule.

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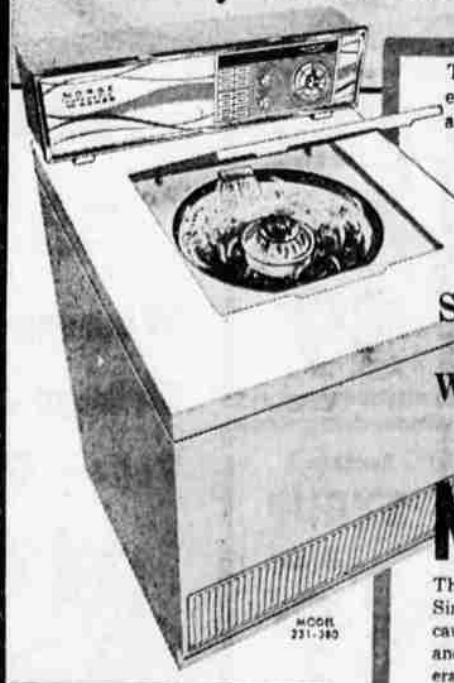

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