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The Rockies

'Liar' sticks by Order testimony

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The star witness against The Order has agreed he was a "convincing liar" but is sticking by his assertions that the group waged an 18-month crime campaign to finance an Aryan war against Jews and minorities.

Denver Dav Parmenter II is beginning his second week on the witness stand in U.S. District Court in the racketeering trial of 10 people accused of murder, robbery and other crimes to further The Order's racist goals.

Cross-examination was scheduled to continue today. Defense attorneys are trying to chip away Parmenter's credibility by suggesting he cut a deal with the government to avoid being sentenced to prison for a century or more.

The defendants are among 23 people named in a 21-count federal grand jury indictment accusing them of 67 crimes. Parmenter and 10 others have pleaded guilty, while one defendant remains at large and the 23rd faces trial in Missouri in the killing of a state trooper.

Thursday Parmenter admitted he told FBI agents he did not think defendant Jean Margaret Craig watched Alan Berg's movements before the Denver radio personality was gunned down in a gangland-style murder.

The government alleges the crime was committed by Order members including Craig.

He also agreed he testified in court about incidents he had never mentioned to the FBI after his arrest, but said his interviews with federal agents occurred when he was "just beginning to recall things."

Parmenter, who said he has renounced his racist, anti-Jewish beliefs, agreed with defense attorney Anthony Savage that he had lied under oath.

"You were believed?" Savage asked.

Parmenter said, "Yes."

"Then you were a convincing liar?" Savage asked.

"Yes," Parmenter replied.

Craig and two other defendants are among five people the government says planned and carried out Berg's murder.

Berg, a Jew who sparred verbally with racists and anti-Semites on his radio show, was machine-gunned to death on June 18, 1984, as he stepped from his car outside his Denver home.

Parmenter had testified that the late Robert Mathews, leader of The Order, confessed to him that Mathews had participated in Berg's murder.

Wire check

Sentinel wire services

Brighton

Woman testifies sheriff fondled her

A woman who worked for Adams County Sheriff Bert Johnson testified Thursday that the sheriff reached inside her blouse and fondled her breast — publicly, at a golf tournament — but she didn't tell anyone because she feared she wouldn't be believed.

Mara Haggard told the nine-woman, five-man jury, she also was afraid she would lose her job.

Johnson, 54, who has been sheriff 11 years, is charged with 14 counts of sexual assault and attempted sexual assault. The charges, all misdemeanors, each carry maximum penalties of two years in prison and $5,000 in fines.

He will be tried later on seven felony charges involving extortion, embezzlement of public property, and second-degree sexual assault.

Denver

Lamm humor just fair, staffers say

Members of Gov. Richard Lamm's staff think he has a fair sense of humor at best and at least one member says His Excellency has no sense of humor at all.

A Los Angeles-based public relations firm is surveying governor's offices around the nation to find out if there really is humor in the hallowed halls such as on the television show "Benson." The firm came up with the results after responses from 17 members of Lamm's staff.

Six said Lamm has "great humor," 10 said it was only "fair," and one said Lamm has "no humor."

Stars see new 'Miller Story' opening

The 1954 movie hit "The Glenn Miller Story" — being re-released with a Dolby stereo sound track — premiered in Denver Thursday night with June Allyson and James Stewart on hand for the show. It was a benefit for the University of Colorado.

Stewart portrayed the big-band leader, who attended CU. Allyson played Miller's wife, Helen.

David Hall, vice president and editor of the Denver Post, a co-sponsor of the event, said it appeared the more than capacity crowd had contributed "in the neighborhood of $19,000 for the CU School of Music." The money will be used for scholarships.

"We are just delighted and honored to find this whole place completely filled for this," Stewart said, adding the movie wasn't really a premiere but not just a rerun.

St. Louis

Pilot tells of smuggling adventure

A former drug dealer and pilot from Florida testified Thursday that he personally made more than $1 million in a single drug smuggling adventure in 1981 with a Boulder man accused of being a drug kingpin.

Kevin J. Madden, 30, formerly of Tampa, Fla., testified against Fleet W. Maull in U.S. District Court. He said Maull had arranged for the purchase of about 67 kilograms, or about 147 pounds, of pure cocaine from Maull's source in Bolivia.

Madden said that he, his brother, Terry Riecken, and another man then flew the cocaine back to the United States via Colombia and Grand Bahamas Island. Madden and Riecken, 31, of Steamboat Springs, Colo., are co-defendants with Maull in the case. Both have pleaded guilty to single drug trafficking charges and agreed to cooperate with the government.

Court OKs EPA coyote poison rule

Associated Press

DENVER — The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled the Environmental Protection Agency acted within its authority in allowing the use of Compound 1080, a poison that's used to kill coyotes and other predators.

EPA restrictions allow ranchers to fit animals with collars loaded with the lethal poison and to use single lethal dose baits, as long as they are prepared, distributed and used only by federal and state employees certified to handle the poison.

The appeals court said Thursday the EPA administrator must accept certification programs run by state governments, which overturns a decision that the program be run solely by the federal government.

The EPA administrator may reject individual state plans for certification of Compound 1080 users, if the plans do not provide adequate regulations, but the appeals court said a state's plans cannot be arbitrarily and capriciously rejected in advance.

The National Cattlemen's Association, National Wool Growers Association and Public Land Council had sought to use Compound 1080 since it was banned in 1972.

Later, the EPA decided single lethal doses did not pose a significant threat to non-target animals.

Rites for bishop

Denver Roman Catholic Archbishop James V. Casey performs funeral ceremonies Thursday in Denver for Bishop George Evans, 62, who died from colon cancer Friday.

Sex assault jails man for 30 days

Associated Press

GREELEY — A 41-year-old Greeley man who was a figure in a highly publicized sexual assault case involving several young girls has been sentenced to 30 days in the Weld County Jail.

District Judge Jonathan Hays also sentenced Patrick Hill to four years of probation. Conditions of the probation include long-term therapy and an order that Hill not be in the company of any female under the age of 18 without another adult present.

Hill pleaded guilty in June to felony sexual assault on a child.

In a related case, Hill's niece, Judy Davis, 24, changed her plea last week, pleading guilty to an incest charge and a misdemeanor count of promoting obscenity. She will be sentenced Oct. 28.

That sentencing will conclude a case that has been spotlighted her since the couple's arrest Jan. 6.

Acting on a tip from a parent, police officers obtained a search warrant for the home Hill and Davis shared and found pictures of nude and seminude girls.

The two were arrested for investigation of sexual exploitation of children but the charges were later changed. Hill was charged with sexual assault on a child and incest.

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