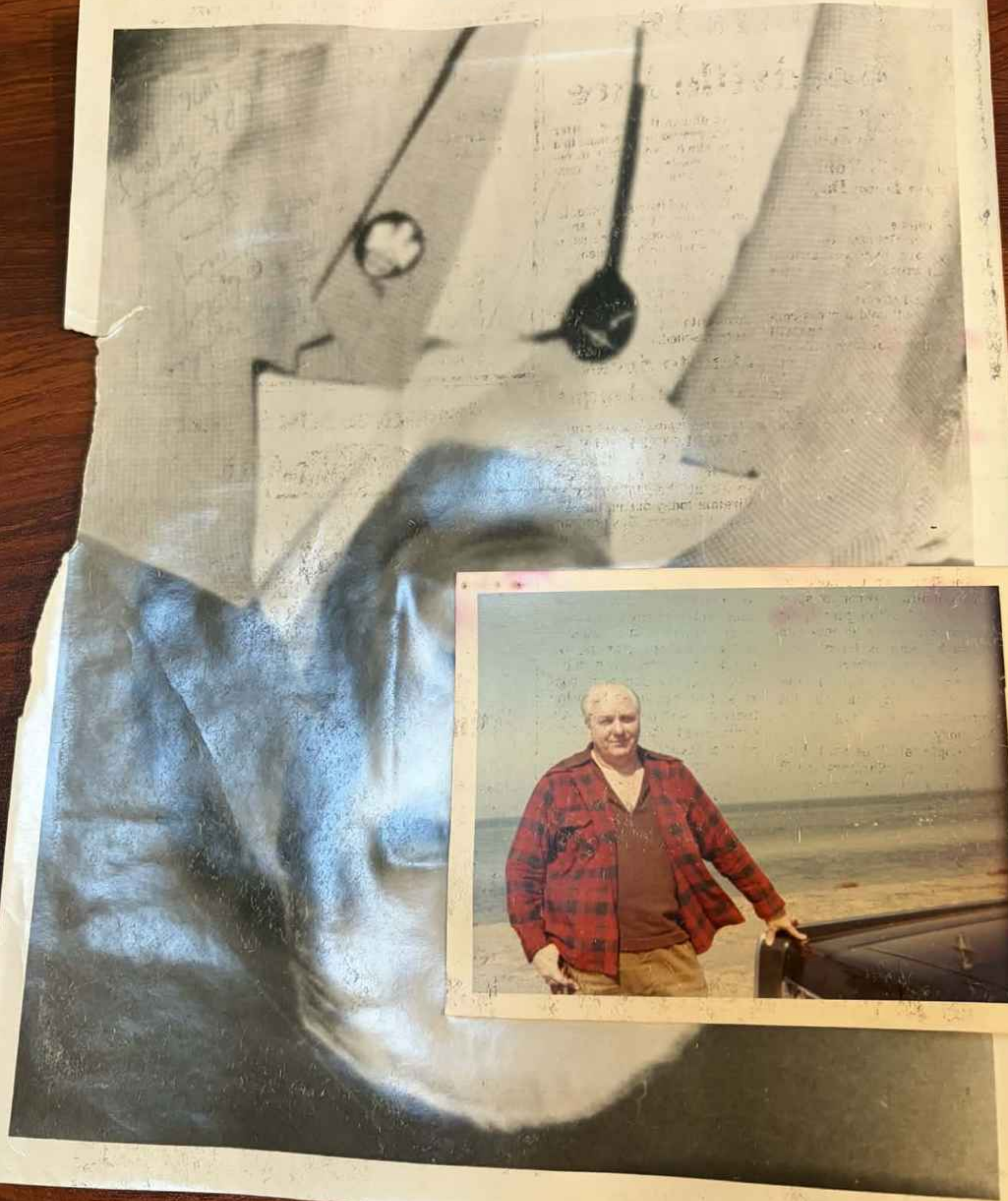


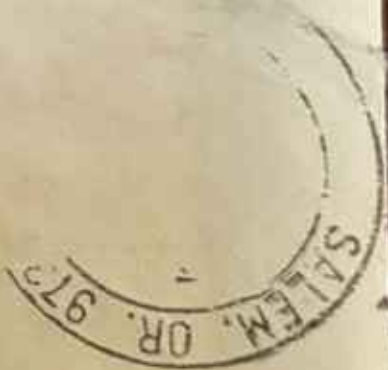


Two others present at the scissor
demonstration... Betty MacMahon &
Betty Humphreys, both working for ~~Doctorate~~
in Parapsych. Find them?

Owens
433 S. 1st St.
Silverton, Oregon
97381

Jeffrey W. Ashlove
3101 Washington St.
San Francisco, California

94115





Hearing on Death Penalty Elicits Plan for Alternatives

By Dale Eisman

Proponents of capital punishment were in short supply yesterday as a Virginia Crime Commission subcommittee studying that subject conducted a public hearing at the Capitol.

Only three speakers favoring capital punishment appeared at the daylong session. Six speakers, all representing religious groups, opposed capital punishment.

The Rev. Virgil Funk of the Office of Social Ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond said that the Bible contains arguments for and against capital punishment and that no firm conclusions can be drawn from it. There is no proof that capital punishment acts as a deterrent to crime, he added.

Mr. Funk said the drive for capital punishment is being led by persons who believe capital punishment will serve as an instrument of reform in the criminal justice system. These persons want capital punishment for certain crimes, he said, to serve as a symbol that those are crimes society cannot tolerate.

"The life of one man is too precious to be sacrificed as a symbol," he said.

James A. Baber, Cumberland County commonwealth's attorney and member of the subcommittee, suggested that there are some crimes so heinous they can be punished only by death. Answering a brutal murder with an execution, he said, may give society the retribution it is owed.

But Mr. Funk rejected the notion that capital punishment gives society retribution. "To whom is it [repayment] owed?" he asked. The killing of the murderer will not bring the victim back to his loved ones, Mr. Funk said.

Several speakers suggested that the murder of a policeman, a prosecutor or a judge be made a capital offense. The present statute provides for execution of the murderer of a prison guard. Del. A.L. Philpott, D-Henry, the subcommittee chairman, admitted he favors capital punishment, but said

position paper in support of his stand, and, while several members disagreed with its conclusions at least two said privately they were impressed with its thoroughness.

Offers Alternatives

Mr. Funk was one of the few speakers opposed to capital punishment to offer alternatives. He suggested that heinous crimes could be punished with life imprisonment with no possibility of parole, and by incarcerating dangerous inmates so they could be studied.

Urchie B. Ellis, a director of the Virginia chapter of Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, said his group favors, capital punishment for willful, premeditated murder; murder committed in the course of arson, rape, burglary and robbery; murder of a policeman on duty, and kidnapping.

But when questioned by subcommittee members, Ellis admitted that he could not define willful murder and said that

while he favors capital punishment he would not be willing to witness an execution.

When Ellis and other speakers favoring capital punishment specified certain types of crimes they said should carry a mandatory death penalty, subcommittee members presented hypothetical cases where execution would not be justified.

Noting that, the Rev. Fletcher Lowe, president of the Richmond Area Clergy Association, said the attempt to establish categories for capital crimes was "like pushing on jelly."

Subcommittee members reached no conclusions yesterday and agreed to meet again Nov. 9 to hear representatives of the state's police, sheriffs, commonwealth's attorneys and correction officers. Philpott said the group hopes to make recommendations to the crime commission and the General Assembly before January.

Prison Medical Case Ends in a Stand-off

A federal court battle over charges that State Prison Farm inmates have been denied adequate medical care has ended in an apparent draw.

In a ruling from the bench yesterday, U.S. District Court Judge Robert R. Merhige Jr. said that the convicts had not proven their charges that they were victims of cruel and unusual punishment because of the alleged lack of adequate medical care.

Merhige added, however, that he was going to issue a written order banning medically unlicensed civilian personnel, such as paramedics, from performing minor surgery at the State Prison Farm.

Merhige also indicated strongly that he would give the prisoners an unlimited right to see a physician personally at sick calls.

The issue of adequate medical care was raised in a

bey, who have been transferred to other prison facilities within the state penal system.

During a two-day hearing last week, C. Daniel Stevens, a court-appointed lawyer for the two inmates, contended that state penal officials had inflicted cruel and unusual punishment — barred by the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution — on the prison farm convicts by not providing adequate medical care.

William A. Carter III, a state assistant attorney-general who represented the prison officials, denied the charge. Merhige agreed with Carter that the inmates' Eighth Amendment rights had not been violated by prison officials.

It was disclosed during the two-day hearing that military trained, but medically unlicensed paramedics employed at the prison farm, as well as some inmates, had been per-

UFO Seen, Chase City Police Say

By John Clement
Times-Dispatch State Staff

CHASE CITY — Sam Huff, a policeman for the past seven years, said he watched an unidentified flying object for 15 minutes around 2 a.m. Thursday.

Huff said Marion Owen, the Chase City police radio dispatcher, first sighted the object after noticing an unusual light reflection on the window of the police station.

Owen radioed Huff, who drove to the west side of town and parked on a railroad bridge, almost under the object, Huff said.

Huff said the soundless object, fairly large, with a color that resembled a very bright star, hovered motionless over the town for about five minutes then moved rapidly to the north, reversed direction and returned to a position over his head.

It stayed motionless for another five minutes before heading rapidly in a westerly direction, he added.

UFOs are probably taken a little more matter-of-factly in this area since two well-publicized and still unexplained sightings occurred in 1967 in nearby South Hill and Lunenburg County.

In the South Hill incident, a warehouseman said, in April 1967 that he rounded a curve and encountered an object 12 feet in diameter, standing on three legs, that resembled an aluminum storage tank.

The object suddenly left the ground in a burst of brilliant light, he reported.

The blacktop street caught fire, and when police arrived on the scene the tar was still hot and smoking.

Two months later, a rural Lunenburg County storekeeper said she was startled one night by a thundering roar.

She looked out her bedroom window and saw a bright light which she described as so bright "you could see every