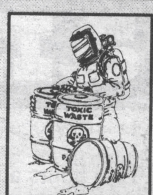




Brothel employees convicted

pg. 5



Low-level waste routes detailed

pg. 16



Fire kills Pahrump man

pg. 3

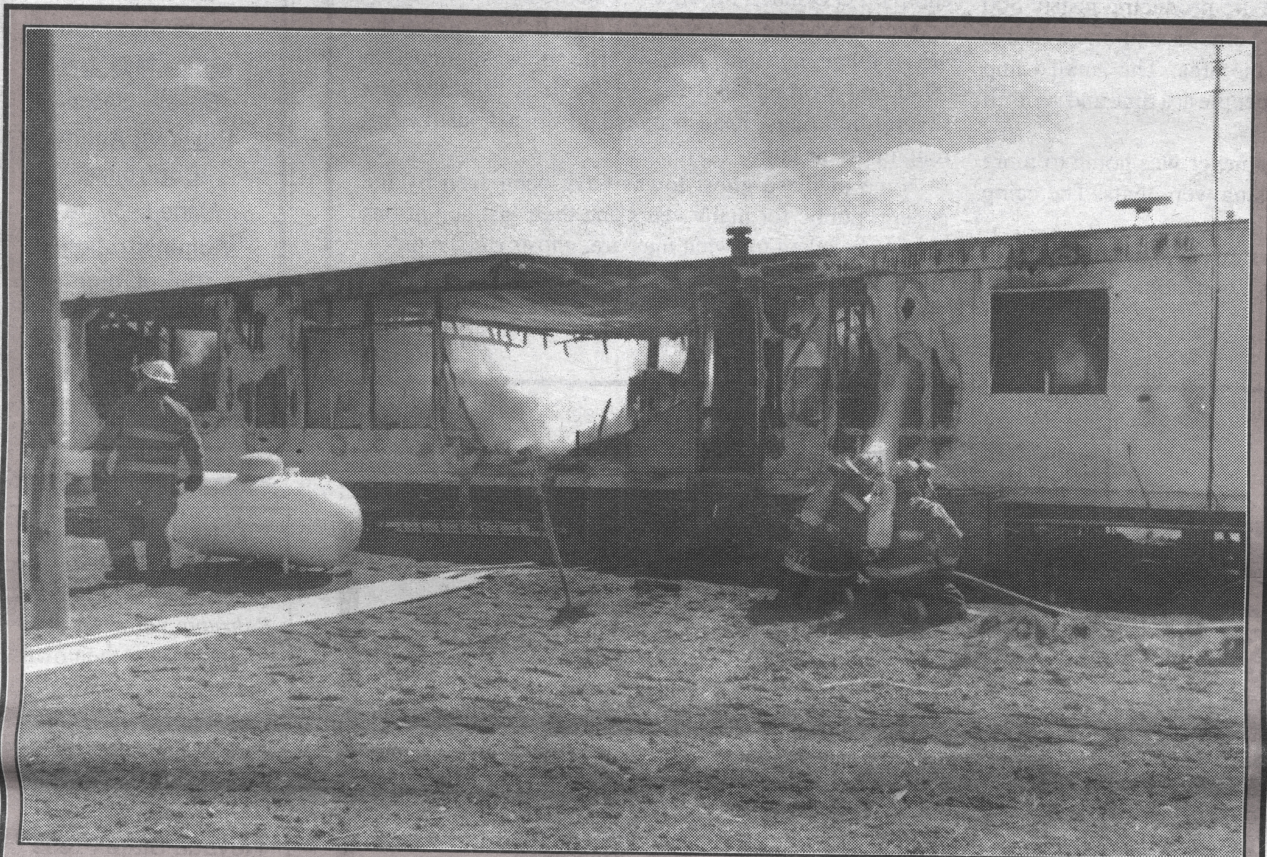
Pahrump Valley GAZETTE

Thursday, March 2, 2000

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Radiation found in Amargosa water



SCORCHED – Firefighters from the Pahrump Fire-Rescue Service rush to contain flames inside this mobile home on Prospector Lane. Emergency crews on the scene said the March 1 blaze appeared to have started near the center of the home. Charles Benson, who owns the residence, was home when the fire broke out and escaped with only minor injuries.

photo by Andy Holtmann

by Sandi Stark
PVG Staff

AMARGOSA VALLEY – Citing a desire to keep the public informed concerning developments affecting the Nevada Test Site and the proposed Yucca Mountain Repository, the Nye County Department of Natural Resources and Federal Facilities issued a statement revealing a so-called "anomaly" in recent results of groundwater testing by one of Nye County's Early Warning Drilling Program's wells.

Nye County and state scientists are currently running tests to determine the source of the radioactivity which is approximately 25 times above federal drinking water standards.

According to Nye County Commissioner Jeff Taguchi, the Office of the Governor, the Environmental Protection Agency, and concerned parties on both the state and federal levels have been notified of the test results.

In a statement from Les Bradshaw, Manager for the Nye County Department of Natural Resources and Federal Facilities, he noted, "Until we verify these preliminary results, we will not be able to determine what it might mean." It is not known as of press time whether the test results are real or a problem with the mechanics of the actual monitoring system. The results may not be known for several days.

In a news release from US Senator Richard Bryan (D-NV)

Continued on page 5

"...25 times above federal drinking water standards..."

Dyers forced to return estate's valuables

A safe deposit box owned by the couple reveals property they claim they didn't have

by Andy Holtmann
PVG Staff

Armed with a District Court order, prosecutors with the Nye County District Attorney's Office played, what could turn out to be, their ace card against former Public Administrator Robert "Red" Dyer and his wife Jeanne on Thursday, Feb. 24.

In the courtroom of Pahrump Justice of the Peace Margaret Whittaker, prosecutor Kirk Vitto demanded the Dyers immediately retrieve items said to be in a safe deposit box at Bank of America. The items were possessions of deceased Beatty resident Bobbie Adrian.

The court order, signed by District Court Judge John Davis

on September 13, 1999, had yet to be honored by the Dyers, despite pressure by heirs Jim and Maribel Sullivan for the couple to do so.

Vitto made the demand after nearly eight hours of testimony in the Dyers' preliminary hearing. The couple face 14 felony charges and one gross misdemeanor in connection with actions the couple took before, during and after Red Dyer was in office.

The Dyers' attorney, Ted Marshall, said the Dyers would be "happy to accommodate the request, just not today." Red Dyer's mother had passed away the previous day and Marshall said the couple had to catch a flight back East immediately following the hearing.

Both Dyers have stated several times in court that they did not possess any of the 120 items that family and friends of Adrian have said were missing.

Vitto contended the items were an important part to the case and "just wanted to make sure." Since Jim Sullivan was in town from Reno to testify, prosecutors said they wanted to locate at least some of the missing items before he departed.

"We have made arrangements with the bank and they are standing by waiting for us," Vitto said.

Whittaker said that since the prosecution's request was based on a court order, Dyer had to comply. She ordered that the Dyers retrieve the contents of the safe deposit box.

Continued on page 8

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Dyers

Continued from front page

At the bank, Sullivan, Vitto, District Attorney Bob Beckett, NCSO detective Chris Redmond and members of the press awaited the Dyers, who stalled in order to place phone calls outside the courtroom. When the Dyers did arrive 20 minutes later, Red Dyer had forgotten the key and had to go to his home to retrieve it.

Once he returned and the safe deposit box was opened, Sullivan identified several pieces of rare jewelry, coins, watches and other items that belonged to Adrian. Prosecutors seized the items, which they said will be evaluated and appraised for their records, after which they will be released to Sullivan.

Friends and family of Adrian have taken careful steps to chronicle their dealings with the Dyers, including a video-taped inventory of items in the Adrian home that is now in the hands of local authorities.

"The only satisfaction I can truly get from this is seeing justice carried out," Sullivan told the *PVGazette* after viewing the seized items. "I want to see justice done for all the other poor bastards who the Dyers have harmed."

The rather unusual procedure came after the second consecutive day of testimony in the hearing, which began in November of last year.

Thursday's testimony began with Sullivan, who told of his dealings with the Dyers after Adrian's July 9 death. Sullivan



"RED" HANDED - Former Public Administrator Red Dyer, with his wife Jeanne and attorney Ted Marshall (left) look on as bank officials reveal to Deputy District Attorney Kirk Vitto (standing) and DA Bob Beckett contents of a safe deposit box the couple rented. The Dyers claimed they never had the items.

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said Jeanne Dyer resisted in turning over keys to Adrian's home, car and gift shop.

After speaking with an attorney, Jeanne finally gave Sullivan the keys. When he asked about other valuable items that belonged to Adrian, Jeanne said they were being kept in a safe deposit box at a nearby bank. Sullivan said the Dyers agreed to meet him at the bank the following morning, but never showed up.

Sullivan described Jeanne as a "very domineering person," who, although was not the Public Administrator, took control of each situation.

"At one point, Red Dyer was attempting to be civil and give me information," Sullivan said. "Jeanne became very upset with him and violent. I thought she was going to hit him."

Sullivan said the Dyers lied to him several times and would refuse information he felt was vital to managing the estate. Despite all of the alleged difficulties the Dyers created, Jeanne asked Sullivan to refute allegations of misconduct on the part of the Dyers that arose in the media.

Ruth Huggins, Adrian's sister, told the court how the Dyers refused to listen to the family's wishes. Upon hearing about her sister's death, she informed the Dyers that she was en route to Beatty and that they "should not touch anything." When she arrived, she found the Dyers had already rummaged through Adrian's home.

Huggins and Adrian shared matching pendants that Adrian bought several years ago. Huggins was wearing her's in court. Her sister's had not yet been located.

The estate's executor, Les Strickler, said he also warned the Dyers to stay away from Adrian's estate, but was ignored. Strickler faxed a codicil to Adrian's Will, showing that he was appointed executor. The Dyers, he said, first denied that they had ever received it, then claimed that they didn't feel it was valid.

Strickler said that on several occasions, Jeanne Dyer had attempted to have the family seek legal representation from their attorney (Marshall). Strickler said the family already had an attorney.

When he arrived in Beatty from his San Jose, CA, home, two days after Adrian's death, Strickler said he was enraged when he found the Dyers had "taken everything."

"I have never seen a case like this where a public official can come in and completely control an estate and

then steal from it," Strickler said. "What they did was definitely beyond the scope of their authority—to ransack a home and a business, it makes you sick."

Marshall, on cross-examination, grilled Strickler on his knowledge of Nevada probate law and claimed that because he was not sworn in as an executor, Strickler had no legal right to manage the estate.

"Yet you were still making demands of the Dyers, representing the family," Marshall said. "If you did not have the right to manage that estate according to state laws, then who did?"

"I would hope it would have been someone trustworthy," Strickler said, while looking at the Dyers.

Also on the stand Thursday, was Jeanne Dyer's half-brother Ed Newman. An undersheriff with the Eldorado County, CA Sheriff's Office, Newman claimed Jeanne stole from her own family.

Newman told the court of Jeanne's actions with regard to Edith Newman, their mother. In April of 1993, Newman arrived at his mother's home to find it vacated and Edith missing.

When he finally located her, she was living with Jeanne, though all of her possessions were gone. Newman suspected they had been stolen by the Dyers. Jeanne claimed the items had been stolen out of Edith's home by someone else and that she and Red had taken their mother under their wing.

Newman pressed for action, but did not file an official police report until 1999—a point that Marshall tried to use to his client's advantage.

Marshall asked Newman if he was aware that he had once been a suspect in the theft. Newman replied that he was aware that a report had been filed by Jeanne, as well as an insurance claim on her mother's property.

Newman's suspicions may have been validated years after the incident when he received a phone call by NCSO detective Jeff Grimaud. Newman was alerted that many items that had once belonged to Edith, were located in the Dyers' home during a search warrant.

Vitto asked Newman if he recognized a ring that Jeanne was wearing in the courtroom. When Newman said it belonged to his mother, Jeanne was ordered by Whittaker to remove the ring. The ring was inspected and noted to be a copy of the original, much to the disappointment of Newman and the prosecution.

The court also heard testimony from Jay Thomas Baggs, the special administrator appointed to Newman's estate in 1993, who said he was asked to look into the whereabouts of several missing items; Cody McGuire, who was paid for labor on the Dyers' Pahrump and Las Vegas homes using checks and possessions from the estate of Tyrone Bauwens; and Karen Staker, a claims representative with Farmer's Insurance who verified that Jeanne Dyer had filed several insurance claims with their company.

Testimony ended with Vitto seeking clarification from Sullivan as to why Adrian's family and friends didn't want the Dyers involved.

"Bobbie's last wish was that Les Strickler was to handle her estate," Vitto said. "Isn't the reason you told the Dyers they had no authority was because you wanted the estate protected from grave robbers?"

"That's correct," Sullivan said.

Scheduling conflicts are forcing another continuation of the hearing. Testimony is expected to resume June 26-30.

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