

1956, March 16. Billings Montana. Edwards is ordered to take a psych eval.

Faces Charge



EDWARD W. EDWARDS

Court Orders Mental Exam

March 19, 1956 11:00 AM

Edward Wayne Edwards. Yellowstone County, Billings, Montana

Conclusion: ANTI-SOCIAL REACTION

HISTORY:

Edward Wayne Edwards was seen at the request of the county attorney, Mr. John Cavan Jr., and with the consent of defense attorney, Mr. James Palmereheim. Prisoner was advised of his rights, was told that if he did not say anything that this might be used against him in court or it might be "good for him." After advising him of this, he said he understood, and added "all I want is to get straightened out." He added he is in jail now for committing an armed robbery. He said this particular series of crime started in Las Vegas where he got a gun, went from there to Reno. He says he held up a couple of places on the way to Billings and after arriving in Billings he was short on money and he used the gun to holdup a gas station. He believes it was a Standard Oil station. "I couldn't really say why I done it. I had a good wife; she's was pregnant; we had no money. We didn't blow it on gambling or anything." He said he felt terrible about all the places he robbed and felt "scared to death." He said he has a history of prison incarcerations beginning when he was about 13 or 14 years of age, he claims. At that time, he was placed in an institution for juvenile delinquency in Parmadale, Pennsylvania, for stealing a bicycle. He has been in jail in Akron, has been a prisoner in Chillicothe Federal Reformatory in Ohio 1951-53 for stealing a car. His last incarceration was in March of 1955 in Akron, Ohio. He was apprehended at 5:00 am in a stolen car which he had taken from the house of some longtime friends. Also, at this time, a girl he had given a ride from Florida to Akron told police he took her at gunpoint, But the charge was dropped, he says.

Past History

Subject prisoner claims he is 22 years of age. He says he was born 14 June, 1933, in Akron, Ohio. There have been no siblings and he never knew his father. He states his mother wasn't married when he was born. When he was just an infant, he claims she committed suicide by shooting herself. He declines any knowledge of this until he was 13 or so. After his mother's death, her sister and husband adopted subject prisoner and six months after his adoption, his

foster mother became paralyzed and was in bed for seven years. Subject prisoner says that his foster father was a drunk and drank and beat her in bed. His mother's mother, the maternal grandmother, was about the only person that the prisoner knew of a real relative. He was in an orphanage, the Parmadale Catholic Orphanage in Cleveland, from 5 to 12 years of age ever since stealing a piece of birthday cake at the orphanage. He has been in and out of trouble. He volunteered for the Marines when 16 or 17, and after basic training, he was refused eligibility to go overseas for being too young. He went AWOL.

He ran at the time and he went back to Akron and was running around until captured. When caught he was placed in a mental hospital. While in the hospital this first wife became pregnant from another guy, a corporal in the Marines, and she divorced subject prisoner when he was in the Chillicothe Federal Reformatory. He was also placed in the Florida State Hospital in 1953 in a mental ward. He was thinking of different things from his past.

"I ran away from the hospital and was sent back to the hospital." He was given an undesirable discharge from the Marines with no court martial. It wasn't clear from the subject prisoner's story just when this occurred.

It may have been in conjunction with his going AWOL; however, it also was in conjunction with stealing a car. He also claims to have been in a Veterans Administration hospital in Houston, Texas. He says he went into the hospital with ulcers, depression, and cried all the time. He was placed in ice packs and cold sheets, and after was placed in a strait jacket. And after running around, he says that he knows that the various crimes he has committed have been illegal. He felt guilty about it, committing some of them, and he isn't just sure why he does such things.

Mental State Evaluation

Edward Wayne Edwards is a slightly built young man of about 20 to 25 years of age by appearance. There was no particular sign of deception during the period of observation, other than flushing of the face. He was cooperative and quiet throughout the interview. Speech was within normal limits. He did not appear in the least depressed, has a history of suicidal gestures, no more than suicidal ideation theatrics. This may have been partially feigned, although it is certainly possible he feels neglected, discriminated against and sorry for himself as he appears to feel. There is a good possibility that he has deliberately exaggerated the story he told, with the intent of gaining sympathy. Only independent information from his past could clarify this. He freely admitted lying to his wife when he married her in October of 1953. He said he told her a bunch of lies.

"I told her I had seven brothers and sisters and went to college and played football. I told her I had fought in Korea and had recently retired. I don't know why I lied like that." There is ample evidence that subject prisoner was so emotionally unstable, explosive style of personality in which he is unable to tolerate very much stress. There is also ample evidence that he has reacted in stress through aggressive anti-social activity. There is no evidence of delusions, hallucinations or feelings of passivity or other evidence of a severe concrete thinking disorder. He is judged to be of average intelligence.

The summary of clinical psychological tests is as follows.

The patient, a young normal-appearing man, was tested at the county jail. He displayed some initial weariness about participating in the examination, as the judge and his lawyer had specified this by consulting him first. While attempts to reach his lawyer were unsuccessful, the patient consented to take the examination without further advice.

At one point he remarked that he didn't understand what could be gleaned from these tests, but none the less was performing to the best of his ability. The latter was born out by a conscience application of all of the tests that were presented to him.