

# Sentence for \$5 of dope gets unexpected parole

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Jerry Mitchell, whose conviction and original 12-year sentence for selling \$5 worth of marijuana spawned a crusade by pot reform groups, has been approved for parole.

Mitchell, 22, has been in prison 14 months, serving most of his time at the medium security Algoa Reformatory near Jefferson City. But he could be out in a month, the parole board said Monday.

The parole was unexpected, said Mitchell's father, Roy, at his West Plains home. Mitchell's parents are blind and had to mortgage their home to raise bond for their son during the early stages of the case.

"The reason I was thinking that, was the length of the sentence," Roy Mitchell said, adding Missouri needed to reduce its penalties for possession of marijuana.

Jerry Mitchell pleaded guilty to selling 11 grams of marijuana to a Highway Patrol undercover agent in Howell County, near the Arkansas border, in return for the dropping of another charge of selling a pound of marijuana.

Judge Winston Buford sentenced him to 12 years in June 1976, but with the help of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, the sentence was reduced the next month to seven years.

"It was a radical sentence," Roy Mitchell said.

# Videotape will give the last say

MIAMI — Perhaps you can't take it with you, but a Florida lawyer is offering a unique way to have the last word after you're gone — a videotaped will.

Florida law requires that a will be written, so the taped variety is only a supplement to be shown when the will is read, although lawyer Murray Meyerson said it could become invaluable if the will is contested.

But he said the real attraction of the videotape has little to do with legal matters.

"A lot of people are going to use it as a parting shot for things they've always wanted to say," said Meyerson, who has set up the first in-house video service in Florida.

"Just think of the pleasure it would give a wealthy man to cut off his free-spending brother and then to explain it all in living color," he said.

Still, he said, a videotape made by a client privately after signing a written will would be legally acceptable if a court battle ensued.

"It would be admitted on the basis of general rules of evidence, as long as you laid the proper rules of foundation that this tape had not been fooled with," Meyerson said.

"You can do that with a video engineer." Meyerson charges an additional \$125 for the videotape over the cost of the will. He thought up the videotape setup while reading about the troubles surrounding the Howard Hughes' will.

"There were so many problems in the Hughes' will," he said. "It seemed incredible to me that a man who had been involved with movies did not film his last will and testament."

Meyerson, 49, initiated the videotape service a month ago and said he has had about 10 clients and dozens of calls since his ads began appearing in Miami newspapers.

His clients include a Miami auto salesman in his 70s who had remarried, a 32-year-old woman with three children who had just received a substantial divorce settlement, and two elderly couples.

"The only reason it hasn't been done before is because video equipment was so expensive," Meyerson said. "Now they've brought the cost down to where it's affordable. Now you'll find video used in more agreements — like live-in agreements."

Video equipment used to cost \$40,000, but it dropped to \$5,000 this spring, Meyerson said.

# Superglue holds woman to bus

BIRMINGHAM, England — Elaine Collins sat down on a bus, but couldn't get up again. She was stuck fast with superglue.

Doctors at Selly Oak Hospital had to cut away part of the bus seat to free the 19-year-old woman as well as the pieces of seat covering still stuck to the skin on the back of her leg.

The doctors then bandaged her leg — covering and all — and hoped it would unstick of its own accord in a few days. If not, she could face an operation.

"It was a terrible thing to do," she said unamused, "and I think this glue should be banned."

W.R. Vermillion, a member of the Board of Probation and Parole, said Mitchell could be released in 30 to 35 days if the board approves one of several plans for employment and living arrangements submitted by Mitchell.

Howard Eisberg of Kansas City, Mitchell's attorney, said he believed

Mitchell would be paroled to a half-way house in Springfield, Mo. Mitchell was a student at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield before he entered prison.

"He's just sort of taking things as they come for a while," the father said.

# Garwood returned to duty

United Press International  
CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — Accused turncoat Pfc. Robert R. Garwood returned to duty at this Marine base Tuesday and was given a clerical job until authorities decided whether to put him to trial.

The 33-year-old Garwood, a former prisoner of war who returned to the United States last March after spending 14 years in Vietnam, is accused by fellow POWs of deserting and collaborating with the North

Vietnamese. "We are confident we will prevail in charges against Pfc. Garwood," said civilian defense attorney Demont Foley. "We ask no favors from anyone."

Garwood has declined to speak with reporters since his arrival on the base Monday night.

"We don't want him put on display," said his military attorney Capt. Dale W. Miller. "Right now he is trying to get himself acclimated. He has not been on active duty on a military

base in quite some time and he doesn't know anybody."

Although there have been predictions an investigation into the case might take months, Woggon said today the investigation "could be completed in relatively a short time, a matter of weeks or days."

Garwood has denied the allegations and contends he was captured in a September 1965 incident in which he killed two enemy soldiers.



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