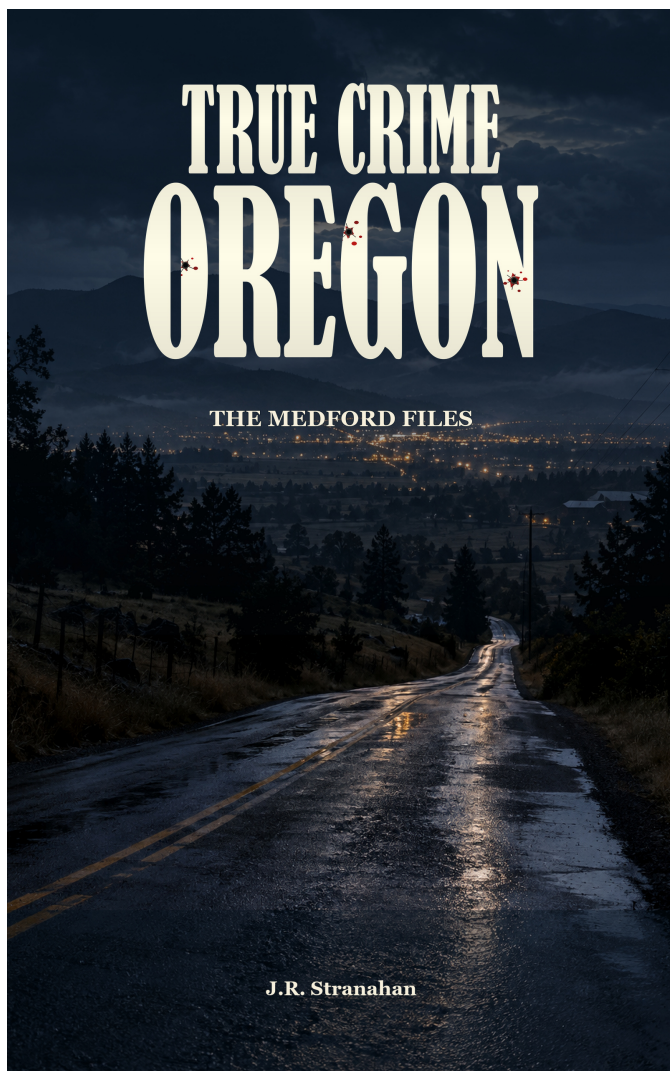


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File 1: The Murder of Rod Cameron Holt

Place and period: Medford and Jackson County, 1961-1962

Present legal status: LeeRoy Sanford McGahuey was convicted of first-degree murder. The Oregon Supreme Court affirmed the judgment reviewed on automatic appeal.

This file belongs first to Rod Cameron Holt, his family, and the Medford community. The public record is necessarily organized around investigation and adjudication, but a criminal case is not the measure of a life. The account uses the available record to describe what happened and how institutions responded, while avoiding invented biography where sources are silent.

The human scale

Rod Cameron Holt was twenty-three months old when he was killed. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Murder of Rod Cameron Holt. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In Medford and Jackson County, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: LeeRoy Sanford McGahuey was convicted of first-degree murder. The Oregon Supreme Court affirmed the judgment reviewed on automatic appeal.

For Rod Cameron Holt, his family, and the Medford community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. The defendant pleaded not guilty and gave notice of an insanity defense. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not

because it supplies atmosphere. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1961-1962 record from Medford and Jackson County contains a point that resists shorthand: The jury found first-degree murder without recommending life imprisonment. The present legal posture is equally specific: LeeRoy Sanford McGahuey was convicted of first-degree murder. The Oregon Supreme Court affirmed the judgment reviewed on automatic appeal. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The trial court imposed the punishment then required by law. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Rod Cameron Holt, his family, and the Medford community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Medford and Jackson County determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1961-1962 marks the span over which the public learned it. The appeal examined whether first-degree murder was properly submitted to the jury. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Rod Cameron Holt was twenty-three months old when he was killed. The answer does not

automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: LeeRoy Sanford McGahuey was convicted of first-degree murder. The Oregon Supreme Court affirmed the judgment reviewed on automatic appeal.

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The first account

By the time *The Murder of Rod Cameron Holt* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The trial court imposed the punishment then required by law. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: LeeRoy Sanford McGahuey was convicted of first-degree murder. The Oregon Supreme Court affirmed the judgment reviewed on automatic appeal.

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The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Rod Cameron Holt was twenty-three months old when he was killed. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Rod Cameron Holt, his family, and the Medford community at the same time.

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Consider the detail in its proper scale: The jury found first-degree murder without recommending life imprisonment. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Medford and Jackson County. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. The defendant pleaded not guilty and gave notice of an insanity defense. In the Medford and Jackson County record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

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Physical evidence

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Witness evidence

Consider the detail in its proper scale: The jury found first-degree murder without recommending life imprisonment. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Medford and Jackson County. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

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Digital and documentary trails

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Charging choices

By the time *The Murder of Rod Cameron Holt* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The trial court imposed the punishment then required by law. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: LeeRoy Sanford McGahuey was convicted of first-degree murder. The Oregon Supreme Court affirmed the judgment reviewed on automatic appeal.

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The courtroom

What happened to Rod Cameron Holt, his family, and the Medford community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. The defendant pleaded not guilty and gave notice of an insanity defense. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

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Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The appeal examined whether first-degree murder was properly submitted to the jury. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Rod Cameron Holt, his family, and the Medford community privately thought.

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Uncertainty

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Institutions

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Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: LeeRoy Sanford McGahuey was convicted of first-degree murder. The Oregon Supreme Court affirmed the judgment reviewed on automatic appeal. That sentence is deliberately narrower than a television summary. It does not merge co-defendants, convert accusations into findings, or imply that an appeal erased a human death. Later proceedings may change the legal posture, but they should not be projected backward onto the record described here.

Sources from the edition

The Murder of Rod Cameron Holt

- Oregon Supreme Court, State v. McGahuey: <https://law.justia.com/cases/oregon/supreme-court/1962/230-or-643-3.html>

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